

Three 60s-born Beijing architects are building new skylines along Yangtze River.

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Standing 90 meters above the river, Yellow Crane Tower provides a spectacular panorama of the Yangtze.

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Their music doesn't fit neatly into the hip hop genre, as their subject matter spans from SARS to Dante's *Inferno*.

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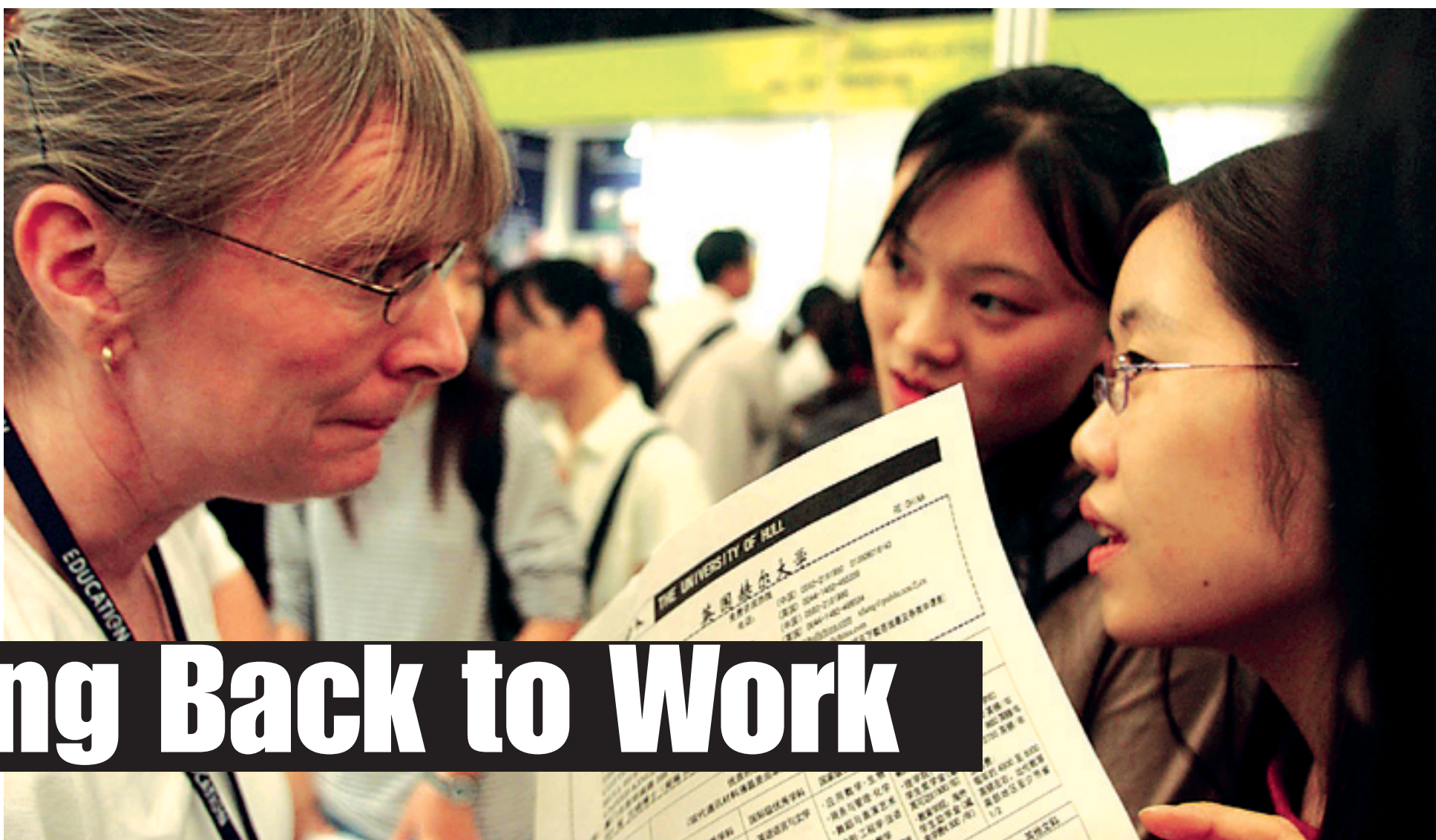
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By Chu Meng

For many young graduates returning to China after completing their studies abroad, matching expectations with reality is not always a fait accompli.

"Many Chinese who have studied abroad face a dilemma when they confront the domestic job market. Too high expectations and an exaggerated sense of self-worth are common weaknesses," said Tao Qinghua, initiator and director-general of the Beijing-based Overseas Chinese Scholar Fund in an interview with *Beijing Today* Wednesday.

"In Britain, it's difficult for foreign graduates to find a decent job," Tao Qinghua said. "It seems that it's not so easy in China either. With the number of returned students soaring, various difficulties are undermining overseas students' confidence in the domestic job market. How-



## Coming Back to Work

ever, as China has enjoyed a continuing economic boom in recent years, it remains an attractive prospect."

The Ministry of Education revealed in January this year that 700,200 Chinese have gone abroad to study between 1978 and 2003. Of these 172,800 have returned to China to work. In 2003 alone, returned overseas students and scholars numbered 20,100, a 12.3 percent increase on 2002. In 2003, the number of returned students hit 20,100, a record high.

A sample survey from the Ministry of Labor and Social Security shows that 35 percent of returned overseas Chinese students had difficulty finding work after they returned. Among those interviewed, it took 30 percent three months to find a job, and 15 percent were still jobless after five months of searching.

The Internet boom years were a golden time for graduates returning from abroad, with many job opportunities with executive responsibilities at big-name Beijing and Shanghai-based transnational corporations or startup companies, as well as in key government departments and organizations.

The apparent "devaluing" of returned graduates has been caused by a combination of factors: the sharp increase in the number of returnees, attracted by the strong economic situation; the unsatisfactory performance of some earlier returnees and the unreasonably high expectations of some recent returnees; as well as the increasing numbers and quality of graduates from domestic universities.

**No surplus of overseas graduates**

"In the past, at present, and even twenty years from now, there will be a big demand in China for highly skilled professionals, especially those with advanced degrees from abroad and those who have acquired diverse cultural, economic, political and social understandings," Zhou Guangzhao, an academician and the former president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, told *Beijing Today* Wednesday.

**Returned graduates of overseas universities are referred to in China as haigui, or "turtles." Haigui is a homonym of the abbreviation for "overseas returned student." And of course haidai (seaweed), in this context refers to "overseas returned students who have so far been unsuccessful in finding employment."**

"As a matter of fact, many overseas investors still insist on hiring people whose resumes include overseas schooling and work experience. And they will also offer handsome salaries," Zhou added.

In an interview with *People's Daily* in January, Zhou said, "Truly talented people will be under-valued. The key to the problem is a lack of systematic career planning and inaccessibility to information."

As Zhou points out, overseas-

educated Chinese have played an essential role in the process of China's science and technology development for more than a century.

Zhou said that China's universities and the science and technology sector are the main channels for overseas exchanges and education. The enormous demand in China for overseas educated and trained staff has triggered a "brain drain" that rivals most developing countries. Key factors for the outward flow, he said, is that Chinese universities are still being built up and a degree from a British or America university is considered critical for professional success. However, a significant shift has occurred in the last few years, in that more and more Chinese educated abroad are returning home after completing their studies.

"Therefore, the government should introduce some form of preferential treatment for returnees. Meanwhile better regulation of the domestic job market and accurate long-term forecasting of the industries that will in the future need qualified graduates will offer students useful guidance both before they leave to study and after they come back. For example, there has been a surfeit of MBA and IT industry graduates both abroad and at home in the past few years," Zhou said.

**Contributing factors**

Zhang Jueming, a graduate from the University of Maryland in the US, said in an interview published in *People's Daily* in January, he believed the problem had been exaggerated. There are generally two reasons for returned graduates to encounter employment difficulties, he said. On the one hand, those who have not yet found jobs are individual cases. Though there are many returned graduates who fail to immediately find satisfactory employment, they represent only a small percentage of the total of returned graduates. Among them, there are many who have basically gilded their

resumes by attending less-than-reputable overseas schools, or enrolled in easy-to-get certificate programs. Those who have real academic ability are still in strong demand.

Moreover, it is not that it is hard for an overseas graduate to find a position; but rather it can be difficult for them to get a position with salary they consider satisfactory. Most of the returnees have expectations of a monthly salary between 7,000 and 15,000 yuan. In reality, the average domestic company expects to pay such employees between 4,000 and 6,000 yuan.

Zhang returned to China this year to spend Spring Festival with his family for the first time after studying and working in the US for six years. Having worked part of the time when he was in the US, there was a strong likelihood that his application to renew his student visa after the winter vacation would be rejected by the embassy, on the grounds that he posed an emigration risk. "I took the risk this time not only because I was homesick, but to take a closer look at the changes in China, so as to decide where to work in the future," Zhang said. Eventually, however, he decided to stay and work in China.

"Hi-tech parks sponsored by the government offer many kinds of preferential financial loans to people like me, and they are growing by providing more and more financial aids for returned students," he said, "Besides, though I have been abroad for many years and find that China's social and working environment are a little complicated for me to cope with, I still want to establish my career at home."

He admitted that he did not have a clear idea about what he wanted to do when he decided to study abroad six years ago, but said he would be more decisive when deciding where to work this time. "Stay or leave, you have to be oriented by a clear target, and a close observation of your surroundings," he concluded.

Deputy director of the China Association of Alumnae from Europe and America Bai Chunli told *Beijing Today*, "On the supply side, China is moving at a feverish pace to train home-grown talent. Degree holders have increased million-fold. Overseas training programs are quickly replicated or imitated. All of this has leveled the playing field considerably. As China's education catches up with the West, alternatives to overseas education have been growing at a rapid rate. Domestic employers are taking a more rational attitude towards returned students."

**Key to success**

Ma Yun, CEO of Alibaba (China) Share Holding Company says he has hired many returned graduates, but rarely considers someone fresh out of school with no prior experience in the industry. "We want the experience. The talent will come through in time, if there's any," he said.

In recent years, overseas students are increasingly being encouraged to return home by local governments by way of special incentives such as tax breaks, subsidized rent or residency permits. Such people are expected to bring back not only technology, but also capital. Their entrepreneurship should yield concrete results down the road in the form of jobs created

and tax bills paid.

Management experience is also highly valued. "We want middle managers or senior executives. Most of our employees without overseas study experience can do their jobs well, but since we've made the extra effort, we would want those who are familiar with the western way of doing things and have done the jobs themselves," Ma said.

In Shanghai, there are currently some 50,000 returned graduates, of whom 2,600 have started their own businesses, with a total investment of US \$400 million. Another 10,000 hold senior-level management or technical positions in foreign-invested firms. Overall, 90 percent of all returnees have PhD or master's degrees, and 30 percent have at least middle-level management experience overseas.

As Zhou Guangzhao summed up in the *People's Daily* interview, "I believe most of the Chinese students overseas are hard working and have learned useful skills. As long as they are willing to come back, there will be suitable jobs for them. But the scenario of a fresh graduate being chased indiscriminately by job recruiters will happen less and less frequently."

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### Free Personal Classifieds

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printed free of charge. Email your personal classifieds (in English and Chinese) to [info@ynet.com](mailto:info@ynet.com). Personal classifieds should conform to relevant laws and regulations.



# China Issues New Auto Policy

By Hou Mingxin

The National Development and Reform Commission Tuesday issued a new policy for China's fast-growing auto industry. The policy will replace the one issued in 1994 by the State Council.

According to the new policy, China will both loosen and tighten restrictions on foreign investors in the auto industry in different aspects.

Foreign investors will be allowed to control stakes of more than 50 percent in automobile and motorcycle joint ventures (JVs) with Chinese partners "if their JVs are built in China's export processing zones and aim at overseas markets," states the new policy.

The new change will permit foreign investors to set up more than two JV plants in China to produce same categories of vehicles, if they join forces with their existing Chinese partners to merge other companies in China.

The new policy will also encourage big domestic automakers to team up with foreign partners to merge both domestic and foreign vehicle makers to expand business boundaries in line with the auto industry's globalization.

However, if a foreign automaker controls a majority stake in another foreign firm, they will be treated as one entity when it comes to the



Duan Liren, a member of a traffic expert team jointly set up by the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Construction, said on May 20 that China has become the world's biggest producer of vehicles. In 2003, 4.45 million cars, 13 million motorcycles and 2.5 million agricultural-purposed vehicles were manufactured in China.

Photo by Imaginechina

requirement on the number of Sino-foreign JVs in China, the new policy says.

According to the policy, one of the Chinese shareholders must have a stake bigger than the total of all foreign investors,

if a Chinese listed automobile, motorcycle or other special-purpose vehicle producer sells its corporate shares.

The new policy stipulates that total investment of any new auto project should stand

at 2 billion yuan or more. Such a project must include a product research and development organization with an investment of no less than 500 million yuan.

The new policy also aims

to foster a national united and open auto market mainly dependent on private consumption.

Local governments are forbidden to take discriminatory action on vehicles produced in other regions, the policy also says.

## Banks Welcome Overseas Investors

By Su Wei

Qualified overseas investors are welcome to join the reshuffle and transformation of China's banking industry, says the China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC), according to a Xinhua report on Sunday.

Individual foreign-funded shareholders in China's banking organizations are allowed to raise their shares from the previous ceiling of 15 percent to 20 percent, said an unidentified official from the CBRC.

Domestic banks that have absorbed foreign investment will not change their ownership nature and business scope, if the proportion of invested foreign capital is kept under 25 percent, the official said.

Recently, foreign banks have been given approval to apply directly to the CBRC to set up branches and representative offices in China. Formerly, such applications had to receive approval from local authorities.

Meanwhile, the CBRC has also authorized local banking regulatory departments to verify the qualification of branch heads or regional chief-representatives newly replaced by foreign banks.

The official points out that foreign banks not only bring capital, technology and new products to China, but also demonstrate to domestic state-owned commercial banks the most advanced operation and management mechanism of modern banks.

"Their entry into China has intensified pressure on state-owned banks to deepen reforms in order to narrow the gaps," he said.

The CBRC has pledged to gradually lift restrictions on foreign banks regarding clients as well as business and region scope, in line with the timetable of China's commitment to the WTO, and to promote the opening-up of the banking industry for a fair and reciprocal environment between home and foreign banks.

By March 2004, 62 overseas banks from 19 countries and regions had establish 195 branches in the mainland, among which 88 are approved to conduct renminbi (RMB) business. Foreign banks have also set up 213 representative offices in China.

The total assets of foreign-funded banks in China has reached US \$53.6 billion, accounting for about 1.6 percent of the whole of all China's banking organizations.

The RMB business of overseas banks is expanding rapidly in China, as their total capital of RMB has risen at an annual two-digit growth rate and reached 78.5 billion yuan (US \$9.5 billion) to date.

## State to Cut Drug Prices

By Hou Mingxin

China will slash prices on several hundred types of medicines to reduce the economic burden on patients and their families, the National Development and Reform Commission announced Monday.

The price cut involves 24 kinds of antibiotics with more than 400 specifications. Prices will be reduced by an average of 30 percent and a maximum of 56 percent. Falling raw material prices and import taxes as well as technical updating and rising competition have reduced production costs, making the cuts possible.

According to the commission, China's pricing watchdog, this is the largest such price cut since 2001, and is expected to save consumers 3.5 billion yuan.

The prices of some drugs in China are set by the government, while others are determined by the market. Further cuts are possible but will take time due to problems left over from the planned economy system, according to the commission.

Although the government has frequently reiterated that hospitals should not overcharge patients, some hospitals are still charging exorbitant prices for medicine, medical services and

disposable products for medical use, the commission said.

In a bid to relieve patients' financial burdens, the government has fixed the maximum prices of more than 1,000 types of medicine, the commission said, and since October 1997, has reduced fixed prices on 10 occasions, saving some 18 billion yuan for patients.

The commission said that price administrations at various levels should continue examining the price of medicine and medical services, and punish violators by giving warnings, confiscating illegal income, imposing fines and revoking licenses.

## QFII Revaluation Speculation Targeted

By Su Wei

China will take measures to stop foreign investors from speculating on a revaluation of the renminbi by using a scheme that admits them into the country's stock and bond markets, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange announced last Saturday.

A spokesman for the administration said that China has so far given permission to 12 international financial institutions to invest \$1.7 billion under the Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor (QFII) scheme. Three more firms are awaiting their investment quotas.

"If we find they keep their money in banks for extended periods to speculate on exchange and

interest rates, rather than investing in the domestic securities market, we may ask them to leave the market," the spokesman said.

In February, ING Bank forfeited half of its allocated \$100 million investment quota as it was not utilized in time, the first time an institution had failed to do so under the scheme. According to local media, analysts said speculation of a yuan revaluation had fuelled inflows of capital betting on a possible yuan revaluation. Meanwhile there has also been speculation that China will raise interest rates for the first time in nine years to tame resurgent inflation and cool an economy which grew at an annual rate of 9.8 percent through the first quarter.

Launched in 2002, QFII offers foreign investors the option to

buy directly into a wide range of mainland-listed companies. Prior to that, foreign investors were confined to the tiny, moribund hard-currency B-share markets and were barred from the main, yuan-denominated A-share markets.

The institutions approved to trade A shares in more than 1,300 companies, as well as treasuries and corporate bonds include Credit Suisse, First Boston and UBS AG.

Earlier this month London-based Standard Chartered became the latest to win approval to invest under the scheme, after the bank's Hong Kong unit had earlier secured the nod from the China Securities Regulatory Commission to join up.

Corruption Bureau, two will join the Law and Policies Research Center, and one each will join the Public Prosecution Department, the Investigation and Supervision Department, the Civil Affairs Procuratorial Department, the Accusation Procuratorial Department and the Railway Transportation Procuratorial Department under the Supreme People's Procuratorate.

According to the report, Zhang Changren, director of the Politics Department of the Supreme People's Procuratorate, said that the open selection is a crucial step in the reform of the selection system for prosecutors. Previously, appointees were mainly chosen from new college graduates to back up the team, which led to most prosecutors having a similar background.

## Top Prosecutors Chosen in Open Selection

By Yi Yi

The Supreme People's Procuratorate will hold an open selection for ten senior prosecutors from the provincial procuratorial organs, *Beijing Youth Daily* reported Monday. It is the first time for the Supreme People's Procuratorate to appoint senior prosecutors in such a way.

Three of the selected prosecutors will join the State Anti-

### Public Security Review

Beijing's 110 emergency hotline received 8 percent fewer calls this week than the preceding week, with the number of reported robberies decreasing by 32 percent. Police continued their crackdown on street crimes, apprehending 249 criminal suspects after investigations.

Break-ins mostly occurred at Balizhuang and Nanmofang in Chaoyang, Yongwai and Donghuashi in Chongwen, Liuliqiao and Youanmen in Fengtai, as well as Enjizhuang, Shuangyushu and Tiancun in Haidian late at night, in the morning and afternoon, while street thefts occurred most frequently at Jinsong and Yayuncun in Chaoyang, Yuyuantan in Haidian and Fangzhuang in Fengtai in the evening and late at night.

Xiaoguan and Anzhenli in Chaoyang, Xiwai Dajie in Xicheng and Tianqiao in Xuanwu were the most common places for auto thefts to take place, mainly at night and in the early morning.

Theft from financial offices of enterprises and public facilities has become the key target for police this week. Police urge all enterprises and public facility units to improve safeguard measures, strengthen internal management and install anti-theft doors for financial offices, as well as implement entry registration for strangers.

(Information from Beijing Public Security Bureau)

## Online Credit Tracking System Launched for Foreign Traders

By Yi Yi

The Ministry of Commerce launched an online credit tracking system for foreign traders in Beijing last Friday, in an effort to force foreign trading companies to comply with market credit principles.

Currently containing credit data for 1,000 foreign trading companies, the system provides basic credit information about the companies and public notices about those who have lost their credit in doing business.

The information will be updated once a year in accordance with records held by customs and the bureau of industry and commerce.

The International Business Database Network (www.ibd.com.cn), which hosts the tracking system, will adopt international conventions to publicize the credit grading of the foreign traders as well as the first Chinese Yellow Pages of Commerce in both Chinese and English for domestic and overseas merchants.

## Japan Waives Visa Fee for Student Educational Tours

By Yi Yi

In order to increase the number of Chinese primary and middle school students taking group educational tours to Japan, the 230 yuan visa charge has been waived as of the end of May, the Japanese Embassy told *Beijing Today* Monday.

The new policy, issued by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was first released on April 5, in the hope of encouraging educational exchanges between youngsters of the two countries.

Other requirements for joining such educational tours remain the same, and visa applications should be submitted to certified travel agencies.

## Regulations Relaxed on Ultra-light Aircraft

By Deng Minjie

The Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) announced last weekend that it has relaxed restrictions on ultra-light aircraft. Ultra-light aircraft are no longer required to be granted approval from the CAAC before flying, and pilots are no longer required to hold a license.

According to the CAAC's guidelines, unpowered aircraft weighing less than 71 kilograms, and powered aircraft capable of speeds no greater than 100 kilometers-per-hour and weigh less than 116 kilograms, are classified as ultra-light aircraft.

Despite the changes, the aircraft remain subject to certain limitations: They may not be flown at night, they may not be flown over cities or other densely populated areas, and they must give way to other aircraft at all times. The new policy is in line with international conventions.

## Opportunity for Foreign-owned Supermarkets

By Deng Minjie

As of Tuesday, foreign investors seeking to operate a supermarket covering an area less than 3,000 square meters can directly apply for approval from the Beijing Municipal Government Commercial Bureau. Previously, such applications had to be submitted to the Ministry of Commerce.

The change is based on a ruling on foreign-funded commercial enterprises issued by the Ministry of Commerce on April 16, which took effect since June 1.

According to the bureau, the commercial turnover of foreign investment in Beijing will account for 15 percent of the sum retail total for commodities by 2005.



# Monopoly Report Targets Microsoft, Kodak



Kodak bought a stake in Lucky films last year.

Photo by Imaginechina

By Sun Yongjian

A new report on monopolistic behavior has upset multinational companies working in China.

With a visit from Bill Gates and a new monopolies law pending, the State Administration For Industry & Commerce (SAFIC) report could not come at a more sensitive time for multinational corporations.

A report published on last Friday's *Securities Times* said that China's Anti-monopoly Law has been submitted to the State Council for approval.

The report among others picks on Tetra Pak, the Swedish package material manufacturer, Kodak and Microsoft, all of whom have long been suspected of monopolistic behavior due to their vast share of the China market.

The report suggests Kodak owns more than 50 percent and Fuji more than 25 percent of the same market. The report suggests Tetra Pak owns 95 percent of the soft packaging market. And Microsoft occupies 95 percent of the operating system software market, according to the report.

Multinational companies owned 70 percent of the domestic mobile phone market in 2002 including Motorola at 26.8 percent and Nokia 16.7 percent. The camera and tire industries are also regarded as monopolized by foreigners in the report.

An anonymous Kodak spokesman quoted in Sunday's *Beijing Youth Daily* said a monopoly share of the market doesn't automatically mean monopolistic behavior and that

Kodak does not abuse its position to manipulate the market. A Tetra Pak spokesman said its products cannot be considered a monopoly as they are vulnerable to quick overhaul by rival products.

The report was based on the research of Sheng Jiemin, a professor from Beijing University. Sheng was quoted by Tuesday's *Beijing Morning Post* as saying a company occupying more than 50 percent of the market should be regarded as a monopoly.

Meanwhile, a *Securities Times* editorial said China should focus on regulating international companies behavior in China, guarding against monopolistic behavior and protecting domestic companies right to compete in the national interest.

## Nasdaq Revamps China to Show Commitment

By Sun Yongjian

Perhaps seeking to silence speculation that it is pulling out of China, US-based Nasdaq Stock Market Corporation announced in New York that it will give stronger support to Chinese companies listed on Nasdaq, according to a report published on *Beijing Star Daily* on Tuesday.

A market analyst who wouldn't reveal his name told *Beijing Today* that his announcement sends the signal that Nasdaq denies withdrawing from China. Web news portals including Sina and Sohu had claimed the reason for chief representative Huang Huaguo's resignation was Nasdaq's pending withdrawal.

Nasdaq Stock Market Corporation announced on May 26 it would expand business in China despite the resignation of its chief representative, Guangzhou-based New Express reported last Friday.

Ghanshyam Dass, general supervisor of Nasdaq's South Asia zone will take charge during the transition. The China representative office of Nasdaq will be directed by the New York headquarters of Nasdaq, *Beijing Star Daily* reported.

## Nortel Networks Center Begins Construction

By Zhou Ying

Construction of the Nortel Networks Center started on Monday at Beijing Zhongguancun Science and Technology Zone.

The 55,000-square-meter Center includes Nortel Networks' headquarters in China and its Research and Development Center.

The Center will not only benefit the business in China, but also the Asia-Pacific, said Mao Yunan, CEO of Nortel Networks (China).

Beijing Vice-Mayor Fan Boyuan said he hoped Nortel Networks would be the first of many multinational companies to locate at the science and technology zone.

## French Electronics Firm to Produce Chinese TVs

By Sun Yongjian

A French consumer electronics company and China's biggest TV company have agreed on the board of directors for their new joint venture TCL Thomson Electronics, which is to be established in July, *Beijing News* reported on Tuesday. The company will produce 18 million TVs for a sales volume of \$3 billion dollars per year.

Chairman Li Dongsheng and CEO Zhao Zhongyao both come from TCL International. TCL has six directors to Thomson's three, reflecting their 67 percent share of the company.

## British Airways Ups Flights between London, Beijing

By Su Wei

To meet increasing demand from Chinese passengers – especially businessmen and students – Europe's second-largest airline will increase flights from London to Beijing from June 7.

Summer flights increase from four to five times a week and winter from three to four. Direct flights from London to Shanghai are also expected to start next year, based on an agreement reached between the Chinese and British governments.

Early this April, British Airways became the first foreign airline company to establish a Chinese aviation website for students in China. "MasterBrand", the company's international program aimed at upgrading the reputation of British Airways, is also to be launched in China this summer.

## Kodak Denies Signing Deal to Sell Mobile Phones

By Sun Yongjian

Kodak has not agreed to allow its 9,000 stores in China to sell mobile phones.

"Although many enterprises have sought to cooperate with Kodak due to its wide sales channels in China," said Tian Geng, Kodak (Beijing) public relations manager told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday.

Monday's *Beijing Morning Post* had reported China Putian Group, one of the largest domestic communication enterprises was going to work with Kodak. China Putian includes China Bird, Putian Capital Group and Putian Eastcom Group.

## China and EU Forge Temporary Coke Deal

By Sun Yongjian

An agreement on coke exports was reached between China and the European Union (EU) last Friday, suggesting the end of a five-month long dispute.

According to the agreement, no less than last year's 4.5 million tons of coke will be exported to the EU in 2004 and the export licenses will be delivered without cost or delay. Meanwhile, the European Commission (EC), the executive arm of the EU announced it will put off filing a lawsuit against China to the World Trade Organization.

More than 30 percent of coke imported by the EU comes from China, *Beijing Morning Post* reported on May 29. China is the world's largest coke provider. Coke is the key raw material for the smelting the steel. China's exports last year fulfilled 50 percent of the overall world demand.

The Commission had sent two ultimatums in two months threatening to file suit against China's export of coke to the EU after the May 28 deadline if any agreement were not reached. China cut quotas from 12 million tons to 9 million tons on January 1, 2004.

Riva, the largest Italian steel corporation asked for government aid at the end of January with a serious shortage of coke. The Italian government demanded the EU should make representations to China asking for a relaxation on restriction of coke exports.

The May 28 agreement has excited the steel and iron industry of EU countries. Four coke factories in EU countries were closed for environmental reasons recently. The steel and iron industry in EU countries relies increasingly on China coke exports, according to the *Beijing Morning Post's* report.

But market analysts said that the agreement reached on May 28 didn't mean final settlement of the dispute. China's coke-producing companies argue that canceling Chinese export restrictions to satisfy EU demand will cause a sharp fall in coke prices, disorder in production and even create serious environmental pollution, *China News* reported on May 24.

But the real reason for coke export restrictions, analyst Han Xiaoping told *Beijing News* on June 1 is that coal is regarded as a strategic reserve of vital importance for the sustainable development of China's economy.



China's coke exports met half of world's demand last year.

Photo by Imaginechina

## US Company Buys Big Bit of Shenzhen Bank

By Sun Yongjian

A US company paid 1.2 billion yuan to become the largest shareholder in Shenzhen Development Bank last Saturday, buying 17.89 percent of Shenzhen Development Bank, *Securities Times* reported on Tuesday.

New Bridge Investment will become the first foreign investor with a controlling interest in a domestic listed bank. But the agreement will not take effect without the official approval of the China Securities Regulatory Commission, China Bank Regulatory Commission and the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission under the State Council.

Shenzhen Investment & Administration, Shenzhen International Trust Investment and Shenzhen Urban Construction & Development will transfer 348 million shares to New Bridge.



China UnionPay is the largest bank card issuer in China.

Photo by Imaginechina

## Shenzhen Stores Refuse Bank Cards

Chain stores in Shenzhen city started to refuse bank cards on Wednesday in response to a breakdown in negotiations on transaction fees with a Shanghai-based national payment network sponsored by most of China's banks, according to Xinhuanet.

Shoppers' bank cards were rejected in stores due to what they were told were "technical problems" on June 2 and 3. This was the stores' reaction to the refusal of China UnionPay to cut the fee.

Banks affected include the big four and the Bank of Communications, CITIC Industrial Bank, China Everbright Bank, Hua Xia Bank, China Minsheng Banking, China Merchant Bank, Industrial Bank, Guangdong Development Bank, Shenzhen Development Bank and the Shanghai Pudong Development Bank. The China Postal Savings and Remittance Bureau was also hit.

The dispute started when the Shenzhen Retailer Association sent a letter to the Shenzhen branch of China UnionPay on behalf of its members on February 27, asking to cut the use fee rate by 0.5 percent. Retailers complained their profits were squeezed as the 1-1.5 percent rate was too high.

There are more than 200,000 chain stores in Shenzhen, but only a few thousand accept bank cards. One reason is the fee, according to a delegate of the association.

China UnionPay insisted their charge was not high compared to other cities and countries.

"We have invested several billion US dollars in the infrastructure. We are still making losses," said Wang Feng, a staff member of China UnionPay.

UnionPay agreed to cut the rate to 0.9 percent if the total volume of card consumption in those stores rose

60 percent, and to 0.8 percent if a 100 percent increase was achieved.

There was no progress made in the following three rounds of negotiations. On April 27, the association published a notice threatening action if no clear written answer was received from UnionPay before May 10.

The latest negotiations on May 20, attended by local government and the consumer association, also failed.

The government declined to intervene in the bilateral negotiations, but opposed any drastic move by either side.

The delegate from local government, who was not named in the article, suggested both sides should focus on the potential development of bank card consumption, which increased by more than 100 percent from 2002 to 2003 in Shenzhen, from 7 billion yuan to 15.6 billion yuan (from 0.84 to 1.88 billion US dollars).

China had issued 690 million bank cards by the end of the first quarter of this year. The number of franchised businesses under the bank card regime amounted to 540,000, and that of bank card issuers 141 nationwide.

Latest statistics suggest that in China for every one yuan worth of consumption about 0.2 yuan is paid through the bank card service system.

China UnionPay is a shareholding financial institution established through capital contributions by over 80 domestic financial institutions in 2002. Bank cards carrying a UnionPay logo, including those issued by the country's major banks, may be used for payment or withdrawing cash from ATMs owned by other member banks in and outside places of residence within China, including Hong Kong. (Xinhua)

## Individual Chinese Can Trade Gold Bullion

By Su Wei

Chinese individual investors can buy and sell gold bullion beginning in June this year in Beijing and Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, through the China Merchants Bank (CMB), the bank said last Thursday.

Li Hao, vice president of the bank, says that the bullion will become a new kind of tool for gold investment in China, and will be issued by the CGS company, a joint venture of Chengdu Banknote Printing and Bullion Road in Sichuan Province.

Weighing 2, 5 or 10 ounces and with a 99.99 percent gold content, the CGS bullion will be produced by the Great Wall Gold and Silver Refinery.

Currently individuals still cannot directly buy and sell gold products in the Shanghai gold exchange center, said Chen Bingfu, CGS board chairman.

From June, individuals can buy and sell CGS bullion through China Merchants Bank at the daily price publicized on newspapers and websites, said Li, noting that the bank is the first Chinese bank doing business on gold bullion purchase and sales.

Prices on the London Bullion Market and the Shanghai gold exchange center will determine the bullion price, he explained.

## Bank Offloads 4 Billion Yuan Non-Performing Assets

By Cao Hao

As it prepares for listing, one of the country's four main banks has sold off about a 4 billion yuan portfolio of bad debt to foreign investors including Morgan Stanley and a Deutsche Bank-led group.

Scattered across a dozen provinces and municipalities, the mortgaged properties formerly backed bad debt. The deal created four firms, according to an official of the China Construction Bank quoted in Xinhuanet on Monday: the first Chinese bank to dispose of non-performing assets by international bulk-sale auction; the first time a bank has sold non-performing assets publicly and competitively; the first time mortgaged assets were bulk sold openly in China and the biggest deal in the non-performing assets market in Chinese history.

Ernst & Young will act as financial advisers, asset evaluation experts and law consultants, the official said.



# Violence Sparks Oil Surge



Saudi Arabia said it was ready to boost output to bring down prices from record high levels.

AFP Photo

Singapore, June 2 (Reuters) - US oil prices struck new highs above \$42 a barrel on Wednesday amid worries that sabotage against oil infrastructure in Saudi Arabia could destabilize the world's biggest crude exporter.

The latest rally to 21-year peaks has raised doubts about whether an increase in supplies from the OPEC producers' cartel will be enough to tame prices.

At 12:33 am EDT, US crude was 13 cents down at \$42.20 a barrel. US light crude hit \$42.45 a barrel, the highest since futures were launched in New York in 1983.

Oil surged six percent on Tuesday after the suspected al Qaeda attacks in the Saudi oil city of Khobar, which underlined concerns over the ability of the ruling Saudi royal family to contain a wave of violence by Islamic militants.

Khobar, where 22 people were killed in the weekend rampage, has no production, export or refining facilities

but Western oil firms have offices and housing in the city.

"Even if they are not capable of doing serious damage to oil infrastructure, political instability and the threat to the ruling family is of real concern and promises to haunt the oil market for some time to come," said veteran OPEC analyst Geoff Pyne.

Traders were already nervous that escalating violence in the vital Middle East might lead to sabotage on oil infrastructure in the region, which pumps more than a quarter of world supplies.

## Analyst's Take:

The cause of the new oil price increase is the military actions in Iraq and Saudi Arabia. But if we look at

the wider issue, we can find another four factors are the fundamental forces driving oil prices up worldwide.

China and India have experienced unexpected growth in demand for oil in recent years.

Aside from Iraq and Saudi Arabia, political and military turmoil can also be seen in the oil producing countries of Venezuela and Nigeria.

Due to the increasing demand and instable oil supply, speculation on the world market has become more severe.

Last but not least, the limited number of refineries and refining capability in the US and around the world has also driven the oil prices up.

— Pan Liwen, senior correspondent on the world oil market, Xinhua News Agency



Drawing of a Boeing 777-200 ER (front) and a 7E7 in Air New Zealand livery. The carrier says it will buy 10 new long-haul aircrafts from Boeing worth more than 1.3 billion NZ dollars (US\$790 million).

AFP Photo

## Air New Zealand to Buy Boeings

Aukland, June 2 (AFP) - Air New Zealand said it would buy 10 new long-haul aircraft from Boeing worth more than 1.3 billion NZ (\$790 million) dollars.

The airline said it had signed agreements to buy eight new Boeing 777-200 ER and two Boeing 7E7 aircraft, as well as rights to buy a further 42 long-haul aircraft.

Air New Zealand is 82 percent owned by the government after being bailed out in 2001. Its move to go with Boeing on long-haul services contrasts with its decision two years ago to use European Airbus for short-haul.

## NEC to Merge Chinese Arms

Beijing, June 2 (telecomasia.com) - NEC has announced it would consolidate its business in China and establish NEC Telecommunications China. The new company will focus on developing new businesses like 3G mobile. Brian Lu, former head of Motorola PCS in China, will head the new operation.

NEC said it will merge its specialist mobile businesses Xi'an NEC Radio Communications Equipment and Guilin NEC Radio Communications by the end of the year.

## Softbank to Buy Japan Telecom

Tokyo, June 2 (AFP) - Japanese internet investor Softbank is to buy Japan Telecom from US investment fund Ripplewood for about 340 billion yen (\$4.27 billion).

Softbank said it would buy all 144 million ordinary shares of the third-largest fixed-line phone carrier in Japan which Ripplewood Holdings LLC acquired from British telecom giant Vodafone Group for 261.3 billion yen in August last year.

The transfer of shares was scheduled for November 16, Softbank said.

## Ford Ordered to Pay \$122 Million

Los Angeles, June 3 (Reuters) - A California jury ordered the Ford Motor Co. to pay at least \$122 million in damages to Mrs. Benetta Buell-Wilson who was left paralyzed from the waist down after her Ford Explorer rolled over in an accident in January 2002.

The panel was still deliberating on punitive damages against Ford in the January 2002 accident.

Ford said it would appeal the decision. Kathleen Vokes, a spokeswoman for the automaker, said that the fault for the accident was with the driver.

## Qwest Buys Name Rights to Seahawks Stadium

Seattle, June 3 (AP) - Qwest Communications International Inc. of Denver announced Wednesday that it's buying the naming rights to the professional football stadium, which has operated without a corporate sponsor since it was completed in 2002.

The Seahawks Stadium will soon be Qwest Field. The 67,000-seat, open-air Seahawks Stadium occupies the site of the Kingdome, which was demolished in 2000, after serving as home for pro teams from their inception in the mid-1970s.



Seattle Seahawks CEO Tod Leiweke announces that the team has a new stadium sponsorship agreement with Qwest Communications International Inc. in Seattle, Washington on Wednesday, June 2, 2004. On the screen is a digital image of the Qwest logo painted on the stadium.

AP Photo

## Cheap Chinese Cars for the US?

Scottsdale, Arizona, June 1 (USA Today) - An Arizona businessman hopes to begin distributing inexpensive Chinese-built cars and trucks to US dealers by this fall.

David Shelburg, 75, of Scottsdale, Arizona, says his company, China Motor, has signed up dealers in California and Arizona to sell the vehicles. He wants to distribute a lineup that includes two sport-utility vehicles, two pickups and two cars.

But Shelburg has been trying to sell Chinese-built cars in the USA for 10 years and has been sued by unhappy dealers who say they never got vehicles to sell and lost thousands of dollars. Texas officials say Shelburg's last attempt, in 1997, went so badly that he is barred from selling any vehicles in Texas.

"A lot of dealers sought enforcement action against Mr. Shelburg, and in 2002 he agreed not to do any business in the state of Texas," says Bret Bray, director of the motor vehicle division of the Texas Department of Transportation.

Shelburg says his attempt to sell Chinese cars in the late '90s fell victim to government delays, "crooks and bandits," and unfair news reports that damaged his reputation and business potential.

He says the government took too long to approve the SUV he wanted to sell, then said it would need updated emissions equipment, which the manufacturer wouldn't pay for.

This time, Shelburg has partnered with Chinese automakers Great Wall Automobile Holding, China Zhejiang Geely Group and Hebei Zhongxing Automobile Manufacturing.

He wants to sell subcompact sedans called Solo and Merrie, compact pickups called Sailor and Deer and compact SUVs called Safe and Sing. All are currently built and sold in China.

Their appeal is price. They sell for \$9,000 to \$15,000.

Federal officials say Shelburg has yet to supply the necessary documents to begin importing and selling the vehicles, including proof that they meet emissions standards and have safety equipment required in the USA, and legal contacts if a vehicle is recalled.

"Sooner or later, Chinese cars will be in the marketplace. It's just a matter of time," Shelburg said. (Earle Eldridge)

## Morgan Stanley to Expand in Russia

Moscow, June 2 (Bloomberg) - Morgan Stanley, the second-biggest US securities firm by capital, said Tuesday it will expand in Russia by applying for licenses to trade local bonds, stocks and currency instruments. The Financial Times reported Tuesday that Morgan Stanley will invest \$50 million over 2 1/2 years to build its Russian business.

Wall Street's biggest banks, which lost billions after Russia defaulted on domestic debt in August 1998, are adding staff in Russia as the longest boom since the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union, soaring stock and bond markets, and domestic takeovers drive demand for advisory trading. Moscow has surpassed New York to become home to more billionaires than anywhere else, according to Forbes magazine.

(Guy Faulconbridge and Todd Prince)



The World Economic Forum released a report yesterday stating that Africa's stagnating growth is the worst economic tragedy of the 20th century. The report said that in 1970 Africa accounted for 1 in 10 of the world's poor, but by 2000 nearly half the world's poor were African.

Mozambique President Joachim Chissano attend the World Economic Forum conference in Maputo,

Mozambique, June 2, 2004. African political and business leaders were urged to redouble their efforts to promote development amid fears the world's poorest continent is stumbling badly in the race for economic growth.

More than 700 leaders from all sectors of the continent attended the summit.

AFP Photo

## US Hearing on China's Economic Status

Washington, June 3 (People's Daily) - The US Department of Commerce held a public hearing on June 3 on whether to designate China as a "market economy" under US anti-dumping laws.

An official from China's Ministry of Commerce, a vice-chairman of China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products and a Hong Kong company participated in the hearing.

China and the US have started a preliminary process on the US granting market economy status to China. But experts believe that moving on from China's classification as a non-market economy is still some time away.

Countries must meet six criteria under the US Tariff Act of 1930 to be designated as a market economy. Among them, labor and currency rates will be the two most difficult points and take most energy to solve, said Zhang Xiaoji, an expert from the State Council Development and Research Center.

Li Xiaoxi, an economics professor

at Beijing Normal University, said despite the six criteria, the US definition of "market" and "non-market" economies was not based on universal norms and it had granted the status to Russia.

At the same time, other countries have agreed to discuss the market economy issue with China. New Zealand, Singapore and Malaysia have already granted the status to China. Brazilian president Lula da Silva vowed to give China the status during his visit to Beijing late last month.

"The issue is negotiable and I believe the US side will put forward many requests in process," Li said.

## Analyst's Take:

China's market economy status is a matter of politics rather than a technical issue. This time, it is only a public hearing in the US Congress and it still takes time to reach a final decision.

If the US postpones the acceptance,

Chinese enterprises will face endless anti-dumping accusations. Also it will offer an excuse to the EU and Japan to follow suit. Thirdly, the postponement will have a negative impact on China's exports to the US and the import of technologies from it.

— Li Xiangyang, deputy director, Institute of World Economics and Politics

## Six criteria for the US to confer market economy status:

- Convertibility of the currency;
- Freedom of negotiations between employers and employees;
- Freedom of establishing joint ventures and wholly-owned foreign enterprises;
- Extent of government control of the production system;
- Extent of government interference in the distribution of production resources, products and price settings;
- Other evaluating criteria raised by the US Department of Commerce.

## Malaysia Recognizes China's Status

Beijing, May 30 (Xinhua News Agency) - Malaysia announced in Beijing Saturday that it recognizes the full market economy status of China, according to a joint communique issued after a meeting between Chinese President Hu Jintao and Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Malaysia is the third country to issue the recognition following New Zealand and Singapore.

On his visit to China, Badawi told Hu that China has developed into a full market economy, with great potential in bilateral economic cooperation and trade.

China and Malaysia established full diplomatic relations 30 years

ago. There are very good reasons for Malaysia and China to be doing much more business with each other not only in the future but right now, said Badawi here Friday at a business seminar.

## Analyst's Take:

Malaysia has maintained constructive and mutually beneficial relations with China over the past two decades. The major factor should be the six million Chinese Malaysians in their country. The two governments can see the great potential in bilateral economic cooperation.

Bilateral trade volume reached

\$20 billion last year. Malaysia is China's largest trading partner among the ASEAN members, while China has become Malaysia's third largest partner.

Aside from electric and electronic products, palm oil is the biggest trading item between the two countries. Malaysia exported 2.2 million tons of palm oil to China last year, nearly 80 percent of China's import of the commodity. Both sides agree that constructive cooperation between Malaysia and China will be a good example for other ASEAN members.

— Zhou Qun, senior reporter on ASEAN affairs, China News Services





Ragweed — look out!

# Beijing Declares War on 'Invasive Species'

By Dong Nan

**I**nvasive species" are spreading fast through suburban farms, gardens and mountains, the Beijing Agriculture Bureau announced on Monday.

An "invasive species" is an animal or plant not native to the ecosystem, whose introduction harms the environment, the economy or human health.

The top target: ragweed. Ragweed grows faster and higher than its neighboring native

plants, creating an irretrievable loss of native biodiversity. Since it arrived with agricultural imports in the '30s, the Mexican native has infested about 2,000 hectares of land in Miyun, Mengtougou, Changping, Haidian, Fengtai and Shunyi district. The bureau plans to spray poison, introduce rival native plants and generally root out the problem.

The capital city faces two more alien attacks: the North American white moth and red turpentine beetle.

Beijing Today had reported on March 19 that from Liaoning Province, the moth was chewing its way through more than 200 species of trees, crops and wild plants into areas close to Beijing -- Tianjin, Hebei and Shanxi. Now pupas have appeared on the Beijing-Hebei border, confirm Bureau scientists.

The American beetle first appeared in Shanxi 20 years ago and likes the taste of tree trunks. The insect has gouged on six million conifers in Taihangshan, west of Beijing.



Red turpentine beetle



North American white moth

## Tycoon Receives Three Years' Imprisonment

By Zhang Nan

Forbes magazine ranked him China's 11th-richest man, with a fortune estimated at US\$320 million in 2002, *China Daily* recorded on Tuesday.

But on that same day at Shanghai Number One Intermediate People's Court, Zhou Zhengyi was sentenced to three years in prison for manipulating the exchange price of stocks and falsifying documents, according to the Xinhua News Agency.

Zhou, chairman of Shang-

hai-based Nongkai Development Group, was arrested on September 5 last year. Between June 1999 and May 2003 Zhou instigated a speculative scam in shares of Xuzhou Engineering Mechanism Technology as the stock price rose 402 percent.

Between October 1998 and September 2000, Zhou transferred 700 million yuan into Nongkai Development Group raising its capital to 800 million yuan. But he kept his registered capital at 100 million yuan.

For manipulating the price of stocks, Zhou was sentenced to two years, and six months in prison. For falsifying documents, he received one year. But combining the sentences, the court only sentenced him to three years in total. After the sentencing, Zhou did not express any immediate intention to appeal.

A professor of criminal law at Peking University attempted to explain the shortened sentence to *China Youth Daily* on Tuesday. "In weighing the final sentence, it is not simply a matter of adding the years together," said Chen Xingliang.

Zhou graduated from high school in 1977, then worked as factory accountant, according to Jin-yang Net. He next ran a bakery shop and then a clothing store. In the late '80s, he went to Japan to do business. In 1995, Zhou began to invest in the stock market.



Zhou Zhengyi

## Arsonist Apologizes to Victims, Parents

By Zhang Nan

One of two arsonists in the infamous Blue Speed Internet Bar fire which killed 24 and injured 13 on June 16, 2002 has finally apologized to the victims and their parents.

"I have understood a lot since I came to the Correction Station



Liu

Photo by Wang Xiaoxi

for minors," said Liu on Tuesday. "I did great harm to the victims' family. I must apologize to them."

Their full names have never been published. Liu, then 13, and Song, then 14, set fire to the bar after a row over money with a clerk. They were both sentenced to life on August 30 last year at Beijing Number One Intermediate People's Court.

One of the survivors afterwards demanded Liu and Song apologize to the victims, but Liu refused in distress over his extreme sentence.

"No matter what I did, I only thought about myself before I was 14," Liu told *Beijing Youth Daily* on Tuesday. "I thought I was young and people should give me a second chance to make it up no matter what kind of mistake I had made."

The fire prompted an unprecedented nationwide clampdown on illegal internet cafes. More than 3,300 were later closed by the government, according to Chinanews.com.



Photo by Lu Xin

## Carnival Capers

By Zhou Ying

More than 2,000 pupils and their parents gathered at the playground of the Fourth Middle School in Dongcheng District on Monday for an English language carnival. The activity included about 100 dialogue tests. Each test had an Eng-

lish-language topic, such as traffic, shopping or eating. Parents and their children, playing as a team, took each test to pass through to the next stall. Armen, a foreign teacher from Ladder English Camp, is here acting as a traffic policeman, playing a dialogue game with a pupil.

## Suspects Rounded Up for Murder of ex-Phoenix TV Director

By Liu Mingtang

Shenzhen Police on Monday arrested four suspects for the murder of a former Phoenix TV Vice President Zhou Yinan and his family. One suspect is still at large.

Zhou Yinan, 56, was found on Thursday with several dozen stab wounds, along with the bodies of his second wife, 5-year-old daughter, his accountant and nanny on Saturday night. Police did not name any of the victims including Zhou, who was only later identified by local media.

The family was last seen on Thursday at their condominium swimming pool by their neighbors. The tragedy was uncovered after neighbors complained of a foul smell emanating from Zhou's house.

Police believed the five had been dead for more than a day. All of the arrested are from Hubei Province, police announced on Tuesday. One of the suspects, identified only by the surname Luo, is a neighbor of Zhou, who often played mahjong with Zhou's second wife, surnamed

Xiang, at Zhou's home.

Police believe Luo planned a burglary and tricked the nanny into letting them into the home on May 26 by pretending to deliver bottled water. When Xiang, Zhou's second wife, went home, police say the gang threatened her for the password to a bank card and then killed her. When Zhou and his daughter arrived, the gang allegedly obtained the password in the same way before stabbing the girl to death in the throat. Finally, the police say the gang killed the ac-

countant. Zhou's bank card was later used to withdraw 50,000 yuan.

Zhou formerly worked at Hong Kong Huaying International under China Central Television. He joined Phoenix in 1996. He had left the TV station in 1999 to found an advertising firm in Shenzhen.

Lizzie Cheung, spokeswoman for Phoenix Television, confirmed Zhou's former work with Phoenix, and expressed their sorrow over his death. She declined any further comment.

## Workers Frustrated as Unhappy Circus Leaves Town

By Dong Nan

All the way from Anhui Province, the popular "Ox Innovation Circus" (丑牛创新马戏团) was closed down by the Lugouqiao police of Fengtai District on Sunday.

Police found construction workers crowding around a temporary stage at a building site for a city government project where construction had to be halted.

They asked the owner and foreman of the circus to produce the necessary performance license from the city Cultural Bureau. Mr. Liang showed them a license valid only for Linquan town in Anhui Province. Police

asked him to remove the stage.

The police had released the story to the media without giving Mr Liang's full name, a police spokesman told *Beijing Today*, "to protect his privacy". Liang told *Beijing Evening News* his circus had come to the city at the end of last month. The 14 members of his circus had hoped to perform acrobatics and magic twice on Sunday night. They did not manage a single performance.

He chose the pavement site as it was close to at least seven building sites employing what Liang estimated as about 5,000 construction workers.

"I heard that Beijing construc-

tion workers were richer than in other places," Liang told *Beijing Evening News*. "We priced the ticket at three yuan — I figured they could afford that."

Construction of the stage began at 5 am, lasting six hours. "But the moment we finished our work, the police came over and stopped us."

Liang and company are going back to Anhui. "I accept my punishment and will not do this again," said Liang.

"The illegal performance has been stopped. Great. So now what time will the legal one be started?" asked a building worker, who did not reveal his name to *Beijing Evening News*.

"Our major form of entertainment is playing poker and there's no TV in our dormitory. If there's any performance, of course I want to go. I can afford five yuan tops for a ticket," said Wang Jianhong, working on a residential building site in Che-zhanlu, Tongzhou District.

"A hard, lonely and dull life can easily lead to alienation, with the hidden possibility of a mental breakdown or criminalization," said Deng Yuwen, a researcher of China Economic Reform Seminar told *Beijing Today*.

"Not only the government, but all of society should think about this problem and take care of workers from rural areas."





Pedestrians cross the road even though the light is red

By Zhou Ying

The proposed Beijing Road Traffic Safety Management Statute has just been publicized, and citizens have been more than happy to offer their suggestions; 1,758 items of advice were sent in by Monday.

Some of the rules are proving controversial. For instance, new drivers would be required to drive only on the furthest right lane of the road for a year after getting their license. Some citizens have complained that this would make it difficult for new license holders to drive properly. And some argue that many drivers who have held a

license for more than a year still do not necessarily have enough driving experience.

Drivers would also have to pay compensation if they hit a pedestrian, even if it was the pedestrian's fault. If the damages exceed the maximum amount prescribed by the third-party civil responsibility insurance, automobile drivers

would have to pay at least 60 percent of the balance.

There's also a statute requiring people to put their children on buses rather than taking them on bicycles. A mother of a 9-year old girl pointed out that getting to school through traffic can be a real headache. "It is really impractical for ordinary people to

take a taxi everyday, nor can we go to school on foot," she added.

Another parent said that this article is unrealistic. "The only way to take children to school is by bike, because buses are really crowded. Generally speaking, it only takes 20 minutes to take my child to school by bike; by bus it takes nearly an hour."

Many have suggested subtle changes to the rules. "I think the law could stipulate the time when it's okay for parents to take children by bike, such as from 7 am to 8 am," one parent said.

The statute will be reconsidered in July before implementation.

**Song Yang**, a graduate student of Beijing Industrial and

Commercial University who has driven for three years

I think the article about new drivers will be hard to put into practice. And it is unreasonable.

Firstly, I think it is unscientific to judge "new drivers" depending on a length of time. People who have recently got a license may drive every day; therefore they are proficient in driving. In contrast, someone else may have had a license for several years, but seldom drives.

Secondly, I think the situation will be more complicated if all the new drivers drive on the right lane of the road. Just imagine what will happen if they want to turn left. It will be more dangerous for them to change lanes.

Thirdly, I believe that it is impossible for the police to supervise and manage. They cannot judge who are new license holders. After all, the police cannot halt cars to carry out examinations.

**Liu Jitao**, a teacher from Shandong Province

The article requiring new drivers to stick to the furthest right lane of the road may bring about two problems. On the one hand, it may have contradictions with China's first Road Traffic Safety Law, implemented on May 1. The law does not distinguish new drivers from experienced drivers, let alone setting any restrictions on them. Therefore the proposed Beijing Road Traffic Safety Management Statute conflicts with the law. According to the legislation law, the law made by lower-level legislators cannot impinge on citizens' rights guaranteed by national law.

Also, new drivers have to drive on the left-turn lane as early as possible if they want to turn left. Isn't that another contradiction with this new article?

**Xing Fengshan**, a traffic policeman from Dongdan Traffic Control Military Unit

I think this article can release the traffic pressure produced by new drivers.

Some drivers complain that the furthest right lane of the road is filled with coaches and trucks, which will make the situation more complicated. However, according to the new Road Traffic Safety Law, coaches and trucks are not allowed to drive within the third ring road.

Secondly, as a traffic policeman, if I see a car driving slowly, I am entitled to halt the car and examine the driver's license. We can advise them to drive on the right lane of road if they are a new driver.

**Liu Bao**, a middle-aged taxi driver

Regarding drivers having to compensate pedestrians in case of an accident, I think legislators should not impose morality upon laws. This article really infringes upon drivers' legal rights. Should we bear responsibility for other people's faults?

Many citizens do not abide by the laws. They will continue crossing the street without hesitation even if the traffic light turns red. In that case, if an accident happens, I think the pedestrian is to blame.

Moreover, if pedestrians cross the expressway or a main street, it is very hard for drivers to stop their cars in time, especially if there's snow or rain.

**Wu Teng**, a senior engineer with Beijing Central Engineering & Research Corporation who has driven for three years

Personally, I think this article is reasonable and acceptable. Comparing drivers and pedestrians, drivers occupy a dominant position if an accident happens. After all, drivers are surrounded by sheet iron.

The reason for legislating is to protect people who are in an inferior position. As a driver, I think it is our duty to watch out for pedestrians. We cannot take it for granted that drivers can strike them and get away with it so long as it's the pedestrian that has broken the law. If drivers did not have to face responsibility, of course they would relax their vigilance. That would lead to a large increase in the number of traffic accidents.

Of course, I think legislation should also monitor pedestrians' actions. Only by joint efforts from drivers and pedestrians can we create a better traffic situation.

# Get Outta the Way!

# Transsexual Olympic Dream

By Zhou Ying

The International Olympic Committee released a decision two weeks ago declaring that transsexuals were cleared to compete in the Olympics for the first time.

Under a proposal approved by the IOC executive board, athletes who have undergone sex-change surgery will be eligible for the Olympics if their new gender has been legally recognized and they have gone through a minimum two-year period of postoperative hormone therapy.

The decision, which covers both male-to-female and female-to-male transitions, goes into effect starting with the Athens Olympics in August.

Men have higher levels of testosterone and greater muscle-to-fat ratio and heart and lung capacity. However, doctors say testosterone levels and muscle mass drop after hormone therapy and sex change surgery.

IOC spokeswoman Giselle Davies said the situation of transsexuals competing in high-level sports was "rare but becoming more common."

IOC medical director Patrick Schamasch said any sport may be touched by this problem. "Until now, we didn't have any rules or regulations. We need to establish some sort of policy," he said.

Some people believe this new policy simply shows respect for human beings, especially transsexuals. Others wonder whether they may have an unfair advantage.

**Li Jianning**, director of the Plastic Surgery Research Institute, Peking University Third Hospital

Transsexual athletes will still retain some gender characteristics for a long time after



IOC President Jacques Rogge speaks during a news briefing following a meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland May 17, 2004

surgery because of the long impact of their inborn hormones. Therefore there is a chance they could have an advantage in competition.

You cannot completely eliminate the impact of inborn hormones. Take the male-to-female case for example; we will not extirpate men's prostate gland during surgery and the pituitary gland of transsexuals will still excrete androgen. Postoperative hormone therapy does not overcome this.

I suggest that the Olympic committee should undergo a precise testing system to examine and analyze the sexual hormones of transsexual athletes, and establish a standard. Transsexuals should only be permitted to compete in the Olympic games if the level of their sexual hormones is within the standard. In this way, we can guarantee the rights of transsexuals at the same time as protecting the fairness of the competition.

**Cui Shujun**, a freelance



Australia's Mianne Bagger became the first transsexual to play in a pro golf tournament in 1995.

writer

It is really amazing news. Personally speaking, I think to allow transsexuals to participate in the Olympic games is totally unfair. Although they may not cheat subjectively, their action has resulted in cheating objectively.

The International Olympic Committee made this decision from the point of view of rights. In my opinion, it is quite different from what we call "human rights".

It's like the case of the woman booted out of a beauty contest after judges found she'd had sex-change surgery. Many experts said that since "she" had an identity card, she should be treated equally, and enjoy the same rights as ordinary women.

However, I think that here people misunderstand the concept of "rights". Certainly people have their rights to choose gender and undergo sex-change surgery. But it doesn't mean that they have the right to participate in various activities and competi-

tions, because it involves a matter of fairness and principles.

Transsexuals who participate in the Olympic Games are like athletes who have taken performance enhancing drugs. When a man becomes a woman, "her" sex characteristics have changed while the original physical strength does not entirely disappear. In that case, "she" must have some advantages over other ordinary athletes.

Whether transsexuals can participate in beauty contests or the Olympic Games is not just a personal matter, it is a matter for the whole of society. The policy may bring about a bad influence and mislead people. People might start having sex-change surgery in order to win in competition.

Transsexuals should be allowed to take part in contests involving intelligence; just so long as it doesn't involve physical strength.

**Su Jinghai**, a senior coach from Beijing track and field team

I personally do not agree with this proposal. It's meaningless and unnecessary. Most sports separate the genders. Although they have undergone sex change surgery, still they cannot produce female hormones naturally. From the point of view of genetics, there is no change in essence. I mean they cannot thoroughly change their genes.

The sex gland is a very complicated thing. Taking male-to-female cases for instance, they can change their appearance, and decrease the subsidiary characteristics such as the voice and moustache. But they cannot produce female hormones because of the lack of a womb. So transsexuals are still different to ordinary women in

the structure of their bodies.

I was an athlete, I would feel uncomfortable about competing with transsexuals. If "she" won, I might think that "she" used to be a man, and that it's unfair.

Anyway, I think the Olympic games should be based on fairness and impartiality. Sport should be based on "natural quality."

**Yang Xinyi**, a graduate student of Beijing Broadcasting Institute

This proposal represents an advancement for the whole of society. Transsexuals have the same rights as ordinary citizens. They still have a legal identity.

This is a serious matter of human rights. In my opinion, the Olympic Games are not about gender. It's a test of physical and technical ability. Not allowing transsexuals to participate in the Olympic Games is a kind of discrimination.

It is just like we do not have the right to prohibit homosexuality; we cannot stop transsexuals from participating in sports competitions.

**Yang Yue**, a university student in Beijing

I personally cannot accept this policy. It has nothing to do with human rights.

The participation of transsexuals in the Olympic Games could destroy the basic principle of fair competition. Transsexuals are different from ordinary people; so they should not compete in the same contest.

I totally agree that we should not discriminate against them, and I believe they have the right to participate in sports competitions. However, why not launch a certain athletic sports category, in which all the participants are transsexuals.



# Thirsting For a Water Solution

By Dong Nan

It's not news that Beijing has suffered heavy water shortages in recent years; the per capita annual water resource for Beijing people is now 300 cubic meters, just one thirtieth of the world average.

Last week, the municipal Water Affairs Office said that Beijing was to increase its average water price to 6 yuan per cubic meter in 2005 as a measure to soothe the city's water shortage. A differentiated charging system will also be adopted, charging higher prices to those who consume above the average level of three cubic meters per capita every month.

This issue, especially the differentiated charging system, has aroused a fierce debate. On the one hand, people agree that it will help in conserving water. But there are also complaints about the difficulty of executing the plan.

**How to manage it?**

Every two months, Zhang, a retired official and a volunteer in the residents' committee of Zhen'er community, Xicheng District, prepares for the difficult job of collecting water fees in her building.

Zhang's house is in a "tongzilou", which is a kind of storied building designed in the 1970s and 80s in China. In these buildings, some 30 residences share the same water meter.

Every two months, Zhang counts the water meter and collects water charges from every family based on how many people one family has. However, people are often unwilling to pay if the charge seems too high, saying they believe other families have been wasting water.

Another complication arises when families have people to stay, or if someone goes away for several days and the family consequently uses less water.

"Collecting water fees is a troublesome task," said Zhang to *Beijing Today*. And she's worried that when the differentiated charging system is adopted arguments about whether people are using more than average are bound to get worse. If people are unwilling to pay up, it will damage the relationships among neighbors and in the community.

The same dilemma occurs in "dazayuan", where several families live in one-story houses in the same yard. These families share one water meter as well.

Families Kong, Zhang, Yang and Sun were neighbors in a dazayuan in Fusuijing, Xicheng District for more than a decade. But Mrs. Yang and Ms. Sun have not been talking to each other for several years. According to Mr. Yang, there had been a falling out over paying the water charge.

"Sun's wife claimed that my wife used too much water on watering flowers, bathing our baby, and various things," said Yang to *Beijing Today*. "But my wife thought that it was guests from Sun's hometown who often lived with their family that used too much water. They quarreled over and over again about it and finally refused to talk to each other."

"I cannot imagine what will happen when the differentiated charging

system is adopted," said Yang. "Maybe they will 'talk' to each other again by quarrelling."

Besides, it's been suggested that some families will claim they have more members. In this way it will seem they are within the average so they can use more water at the cheaper price.

"Who is able to count and check that? The water works company or resident committees? They don't have enough manpower for this hard job," said Wen Xun, a retired teacher and resident of Qinan community, Xicheng District to *Beijing Today*.

"Besides, if a family has two houses in different places, that means they have access to two water meters so they can have a double quota of cheap water. It is obviously unfair, but who can deal with that?" added Wen.

"There are many such kinds of tongzilou and dazayuan in Beijing now. If the differentiated charging system is adopted, problems in managing it will be serious," said Wang Shiliang, chairman of Qinan Resident Committee to *Beijing Today*. "Most people understand that Beijing suffers heavy water shortages, and agree that the differentiated charging system is a good idea in principle. But they worry about how to manage it."

**Who should cut back on water?**

Liu Guizhi, a 72-year-old woman who lives in Jimenqiao, Haidian District is a model citizen when it comes to saving water. She tries everything she can to recycle water in her family.

For example, she has a big tub in the kitchen to collect water she uses to clean food and dishes. She'll use this to water flowers and clean the floor. In the washroom, she has two more tubs to collect water for washing clothes, face, hands and feet to use to wash the room. And she thinks her toilet is a great waste of water so she hasn't used it for several years.

Liu, her husband and her 13-year-old grandson use five to six cubic meters of water between them every month.

"I am not the only one who saves water carefully in our community," said Liu to *Beijing Today*. "Most housewives, especially women who are above 50 years old, save used water to wash the toilet and the floor."

Li, a resident of Qinan community, is equally careful with water. "Most people are aware of the need to save water," she said, "since they pay for it out of their own pockets."

According to statistics from Beijing Development and Reform Committee in 2002, a normal golf course needs 1,000 cubic meters of water every day to irrigate the grass; that's enough for Liu Guizhi's family for almost 20 years!

Beijing has 20 full size golf courses and some 30 smaller ones requiring this massive supply of water.

Another entertainment that drinks up the water is skiing.

"The cost of making snow is high in Beijing," said an owner of a ski slope in the outskirts of Beijing, who refused to publish his name. "Generally, one cubic meter of water can make two cubic meters of snow."

The owner did not say how much water he used every winter, but

Beijing has ten small ski resorts, which have roughly 1.26 million square meters of snow.

"I believe that the key to saving water is to manage and limit commercial use of it, especially for entertainment, rather than limiting common people's use of water," said Wang Shiliang. "I know that the municipal government has taken measures to limit the commercial use of water, but I think it is not enough."

Wang also pointed out that the government should strengthen the management of municipal water usage.

"My neighbors and I can often see water pipes irrigating lawns next to our community that are broken and there's lot of water flowing out in vain. We feel regret about that. But nobody bothers to repair the pipes, and we do not know where we can go to report the situation," said Wang. "If the government paid more attention to such small issues, I believe it would be a kind of education for citizens."

**Solutions and explanations**

Yesterday, a hearing into the water price reform plan was held by Beijing Development and Reform Committee. It allowed 20 citizens to participate.

At the meeting, Beijing Water Works Group suggested that the average water price should increase to 3.84 yuan per cubic meter this year from 3.01 yuan at present. They also said the price for residents should increase from 2.3 yuan per cubic meter to 2.8 yuan.

As for the differentiated charging system, the group suggested a scheme based on an average of four people in one family, using three cubic meters of water every month. This category would pay a basic price for 12 cubic meters of water every month. The second category is 12 - 16 cubic meters every month, and the third is more than 16 cubic meters every month. The price for the second category should be two or three times that for the first, and the third category should pay five times as much as the first.

The group suggested a probation period for this charging system, beginning from this July.

However, Liu Suoxiang, vice president of the group, agreed that without a reconstruction of the water meter system Tongzilou and Dazayuan residences, the differentiated charging system would be hard to implement.

"Beijing is not well prepared for the differentiated charging system," said Chai Xiaozhong, vice chairman of Beijing Development and Reform Committee. He suggested that the probation period should be postponed.

As to limiting commercial use of water, the Water Works Group suggested raising prices; for instance the price for the public bath industry should go up from 60 yuan to 100 yuan per cubic meter and from 20 yuan to 60 yuan for the automobile washing industry. However, other sectors like golf and skiing were not mentioned at the hearing.

"The major task at this time is to tell the whole of society how crucial the water shortage is in Beijing now," concluded Chai.

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# Dam Disaster Kills 18

By Wang Fang

Rescuers found an eleventh body on Monday following the flood at Dalongtan Reservoir in Enshi city, Hubei Province last week. 18 people, including a minibus full of children, were killed by the flood. Seven bodies are still missing.

Following days of heavy rain, floodwater broke a cofferdam - a watertight chamber allowing construction workers to work under water - at 5:49 pm on May 27, sweeping away four construction workers from Dalongtan Construction Company. The flood then pulled a minibus carrying a dozen children and a teacher from Enshi city's Wangwang Kindergarten, plus a driver, into the river.

## A deafening roar

Dalongtan Reservoir is on Qingjiang River, a tributary of the Yangtze. It is only 11 kilometers from downtown Enshi. The hydrological data for May 27 shows that the flow rate of the water was 1,700 m<sup>3</sup> second. The cofferdam was designed to withstand a flow rate of up to 700-800 m<sup>3</sup> second.

Yu Wei, an employee of Enshi Hydrological Station, was observing the hydrological data on the afternoon of May 27. Suddenly, he heard a deafening thud. His intuition told him that something terrible had happened. Then he saw huge torrents running through the breach in the cofferdam.

Su Jianhua, who was with the other workers in the water tunnel also heard the noise. His experience told him that this sound



The cofferdam after the flood

Photo by Photocom

suggested danger. "The sound on that day was different from an explosion, which we often hear on work sites. It was heavier and deeper, so I knew it was the sound of water. I immediately told my crew to run for it."

The water started pouring into the tunnel at that moment. "The water was just 20 meters behind us and it was about four meters high," Su Jianhua told CCTV. "Those who did not run very fast were caught by the water."

Su and his men saw a fork exit in the tunnel, and ran back

up it. "We were saved by this exit. The tunnel was quite straight so the water just ran along it without turning up towards us. We saw some workers tumbling in the water for a while and then they disappeared."

The floodwater was running towards the opposite side of the river. At that time, a minibus carrying a dozen children was driving on the other side of the bank. Liu Xin, who was doing housework on the balcony that afternoon, recalled the horrible scene. "I believe the water was at least two meters high at that time. It

hit the minibus so it was out of balance and fell into the river. When it fell, part of the vehicle was still above the water and two tires could be seen. Then it was pushed down by the waves and it disappeared."

Su Jianhua and his crew were lucky. But they wondered if there had been any prior signals of the disaster? And if so, why were they not warned sooner?

## Warning signs

At 8 am on May 27, 10 hours before the cofferdam broke, it was raining heavily in Enshi. It had been raining for three



Searching for victims

days. The heavy rainfall suggested that flooding might occur at any moment. Wang Shengling, the head of Enshi Prefecture Observatory, told CCTV, "We made the forecast at 8:15 and called Wang Shanxiao, the technology director of Qingjiang Dalongtan Construction Company. We told him that the rainfall at 8 am was already 35 mm within the last hour."

Wang said whenever there was heavy rain, the observatory would report the situation to the construction company in time. In addition, she said, "The design for the cofferdam was to let the floodwater flow over it and if it is not able to hold the flood, the cofferdam was supposed to break; otherwise, it endangers Enshi city. The design of the cofferdam is scientific."

At the beginning of May, the cofferdam had been near breaking point. "That was on May 2 when the rainfall was about 53 mm," Wang recalled.

Around 3 pm on May 27, the warning of a coming flood was issued again. Jiang Rong, the director of Enshi City Water Conservancy and Fishery Bureau, said, "We received the phonecall from prefecture Flood Control Headquarters at 3 pm on May 27 and they told me that around 7 pm there would be a flood peak in the upper reaches of 1000 m<sup>3</sup> second. The director of our general office received this call and immediately called Dalongtan Construction Company. We have the record of this phonecall."

Liu Xin, who witnessed the tragedy of the minibus, was at home for the whole afternoon on May 27. His home is just by the side of the river. However, he said that he did not receive any flood warning from either the governmental departments or Dalongtan Construction Company.

No one thought of setting up a road-block on the road which the kindergarten's minibus took everyday or of notifying Su Jianhua and his crew to leave the tunnel in the 10 hours following the first early-warning at 8 am, or even after the second early-warning.

Technicians from the local water conservancy department said there are a number of tributaries of Qingjiang River and they all flow down from the nearby mountains. When there are heavy rains, the river rises up quickly and the flow is rapid. Therefore, floods are common, so precautionary measures are important during the flood season.

Ji Jiaxing, general manager of the Project Department of Dalongtan Construction Company said that the break of the cofferdam was to be expected. "Our cofferdam could only resist a flow rate of about 700-800 m<sup>3</sup> second; however, it was 1000 m<sup>3</sup> second on that day."

Ji said his department held an urgent meeting after receiving the second early-warning phonecall at 3 pm. "We decided to get ready to evacuate before 4 pm and get everyone out before 6 pm," Ji recalled.

However, Liu Zhaobing, who was working in the tunnel, said there was no notice of any plan to leave until the floodwater came at 5:29 pm.

No conclusions have yet been drawn about whether the construction company or the water conservancy department should bear responsibility for the disaster. Premier Wen Jiabao and vice premier Hui Liangyu have both called for an investigation into



the reasons and for compensation to be paid.

On May 29, Liu Youfan, the vice governor of Hubei Province, told the press the tragedy would be fully investigated. "As soon as we have a result, we will disclose it to the public."

At present, the local authorities have mobilized more than 5,000 people, including 500 soldiers and armed police, from four neighboring counties to comb the Qingjiang River for the remaining bodies.

## The victims

On June 1, Children's Day, children in Enshi city were not celebrating their holiday. Most kindergartens canceled their celebration plans.

In Wangwang Kindergarten, where the 12 children used to play, the banner reading "Celebrate Children's Day" was lying on the ground. The teachers said they had planned grand celebrations.

The head teacher, Xiao Yumei, was dumbfounded by the tragedy. The flood swept away 12 children in her kindergarten as well as her husband, Gong Fangzhi, the driver of the minibus. Her 3-year-old son, who is also in the kindergarten, can't help asking, "Why haven't my friends come back? When will daddy be back?"

Deng Yanfu was the teacher on the minibus. She was 21 years old and had been working in the kindergarten for four years. Her colleagues said that the children all loved her and regarded her as their friend.

Her younger sister said, "I heard that my elder sister had just fallen in love before the accident."

At 5:20 pm on May 27, she had just set off to take the children back home on the minibus, as the flood was about to break.

Her body was retrieved two days later, still holding the door of the bus tightly.

As they heard about the flood, parents of the 12 children hurried to the scene, hoping to find their children.

The accident was a cruel irony for 38-year-old Chen Rongrong who had planned to take his son, four-year-old Chen Liang, to Shanghai. The heavy rain on May 27 had delayed their departure.

Chen heard people shouting that "Wangwang's minibus was swept away by the flood," and he knew his son was on the bus. His brother took him to the spot. He said that he could not see anything but the flood.

He fell to the ground, weeping. "At that moment, my heart was broken. The flood took away everything from me and I don't know what I live for now." He said the rest of his life would be in the shadow of his son's death. "Future, do you think I have a future?"

The parents of the other dead children all shared his sorrow. Chen Shengnan, the mother of You Ai, a three-year-old girl, can't bear to look at the dolls on her daughter's bed.

According to *Nanfang Daily*, Enshi city government has already paid 11,000 yuan in consolation and funeral expenses to the families of every victim. Further compensation will be carried out when all the bodies of the missing people are recovered.

# Corrupt Cop Sentenced to Death

By Zhang Nan

On May 27, Lin Fujiu, known as "China's wealthiest policeman", was sentenced to death for corruption, bribery and bigamy in Anshan. Lin denied all the accusations and prepared to lodge an appeal.

## Well known

According to the investigation, Lin amassed a fortune of more than 50,000,000 yuan through bribery, extortion and usury.

Lin, 54, joined the Chinese Communist Party in 1972. In 1984, when he had left the army, he joined Anshan Procuratorate and in 1993 he became the section chief of the Revenue Inspection Office. He was then appointed director of the Revenue Substation in 1998, and director of the Interior Security Substation of Anshan Public Security Bureau in 2002.

During this time, Lin became well known among the bosses of private enterprises in Anshan, Liaoning province. "If Lin told us or gave us a call, no matter what he wanted, people would send it to his home," said one boss who asked not to be named.

At the end of 2002, Lin's criminal behavior was reported to the Party's Central Discipline Committee. In March 2003, Anshan Discipline Committee established a special group to examine the case. On June 18 2003, Lin was arrested.

## Taking advantage

In 1993, Lin was promoted to section chief of the Revenue Inspection Office. Prior to the government's separation of the powers of legal execution and administrative management in 1998, Lin had the power to judge whether enterprises had violated tax law and decide whether and how to punish them. Since most of the enterprises in Anshan were suspected of varying degrees of tax evasion, Lin was able to use these powers most profitably.

In September 1994, Lin asked Huang Zhen, the manager of Yinda Land Company, to come to his office. "He said to me directly that the houses built by our company were nice and wanted me to give him some as a gift," Huang recalled. "Then he gave



The captive

Photo by Ni Huachu



Not so untouchable

me a piece of paper on which he had already listed the numbers of the houses he wanted."

The manager of Anshan Yinzuo Group, Wang Jinchang, experienced similar extortion. At the beginning of 1995, Lin took a fancy to four houses built by the Great Wall House Developing Company and Anshan Yinzuo Group were suspected of tax evasion. Following threats from Lin, the Great Wall House Developing Company handed over the four houses. Anshan Yinzuo Group were required to pay for materials to decorate the house. The losses of the two companies together was more than 1,300,000 yuan.

Even when the law changed in 1998, Lin found other ways to abuse his authority.

In 2000, Jiang, a director of a steel factory, treated Lin to lavish hospitality, trying to establish good relations with him.

Ten days later, Lin told Jiang that one of his friends was holding a picture show in An-

shan and he asked Jiang to buy some of his friend's paintings. It turned out there was no picture show, but Lin still got 20,000 yuan from Jiang.

A month later, under the false pretense of constructing a small hotel, Lin persuaded Jiang to provide financial support and to install an electronic gate for the small hotel. Jiang did not find out that the building was actually Lin's home until Lin was arrested.

Having by now accumulated abundant wealth, Lin decided to turn his hand to money lending. The extortionate interest he charged formed an important part of his growing fortune.

At the end of January 2002, Liu, a manager of a construction company, needed money to pay workers' wages so he went to Lin and borrowed 2,000,000 yuan.

Liu was unable to return the money by the due date of October 29, 2002, so he discussed deferring the repayment with Lin. On the condition of paying a further 600,000 yuan in interest, Lin allowed Liu to return the money in August 2003.

## Untouchable

In order to cover up his activities, Lin cultivated an image of a spotlessly honest public servant. While he was section chief of the Revenue Inspection Office, Lin established a register system apparently designed to spot any signs of corruption. There was a notebook in the office with the records of Lin's "fine deeds", examples of his

having refused bribes and handing back the numerous presents and financial gifts offered by enterprises keen to ingratiate themselves.

According to the investigation, Lin declared gifts amounting to around 1,000,000 yuan between 1993 and 2003. However, he never actually handed it in.

The director of the Revenue Bureau described what happened. "Between 1997 and 2001, Lin handed in 427,000 yuan to the office, as well as a Radar watch worth 12,600 yuan and US\$10,000. However, he kept most of the money and said he would return it later."

## How did he get away with it?

Many people have asked how a man as nakedly greedy and depraved as Lin could achieve such high official status and operate unnoticed for nearly ten years.

The investigation found that local departments would have been able to deal with Lin but were simply unwilling to do so.

It took the intervention of the Central Discipline Committee at the end of 2002 for any proceedings against Lin to begin. The Central Discipline Committee attached great importance to Lin's case and asked the Anshan government to investigate the matter. Under this kind of pressure the local authorities rapidly proved themselves equal to the task of investigating and compiling evidence against Lin.

The question of how Lin got away with it for so long remains unanswered. One suggestion has been that there was someone in even higher office behind Lin backing him up. Perhaps the following two incidents can offer a clue. In May, 1985, the leaders of Anshan government were opposed to the suggestion of appointing Lin director of the Revenue Bureau. But the next afternoon, Lin's appointment as director was announced anyway. In 2000, there was an appraisal activity among the local units in Anshan. The Revenue Bureau led by Lin achieved the lowest marks among all the units. Both common people and leaders were dissatisfied with Lin. However, his position was never threatened.



# Don't Fence Me in

By René Ng

Yin Ts'ang is a hip hop group that defies any definition. This year they were nominated for best new rock group at the China Music Awards but they aren't a rock band. They are considered a Chinese group except that they are two parts American, one part Chinese-Canadian and only one part native Chinese. Their music doesn't even fit neatly into the hip hop genre as their subject matter spans from SARS to Dante's *Inferno*. But they're still seen as part of the cutting edge of China's new hip hop wave.

"The time is ripe for Chinese hip hop to emerge," says band member Josh Heffernan. Not that it's a new form in the Chinese mainland: bands in Taiwan and Hong Kong have been making hip hop music for years. And in other parts of Asia, hip hop has become a billion dollar industry, especially in countries such

as South Korea and Japan. Def Jam records, one of the largest hip hop labels in the US, set up a separate label in Japan in order to produce local talent. Now the hip hop wave has hit China and new bands such as Gong Foo, CMCB and Yin Ts'ang are leading the way.

## Gaining a name

The group first came together in 2000 with the friendship of Jeremy Johnston, from the US, and local Beijinger Wang Bo, who also calls himself Webber. They both had a passion for hip hop culture, such as break dancing, graffiti art and free style rapping.

Johnston, who was studying Chinese at the Central Nationality University, later met Mark Caster from Canada (originally born in Beijing), and Josh Heffernan from the US who were also part time students and hip hop aficionados. They were kindred souls who started to experiment with rapping in Chinese in their dorm rooms. Their first performances simply stemmed

from quick free style sets in between songs at local hip hop parties that they or their friends hosted. These sporadic parties were soon picked up by the local clubs and resulted in weekly performances.

In February 2002 the first China MC battle was held in Shanghai. Webber was the only Chinese native in the competition and he won it with ease. "He's playing in a completely different league to the rest of the MCs in China," says Heffernan. The following year, Webber won the competition again and he cleaned up this year too. In fact he's decided to retire from the competition in order to let other artists hone their skills.

In late 2002 the first Beijing hip hop group CMCB (Chinese MC Brother) released their first album and it became a surprise hit. Yin Ts'ang have close ties to CMCB so they started opening for them at shows in Beijing.

## In a room

It has been theorized that if you leave 100 monkeys in a room with 100 type writers they will eventually write the greatest book of all time. Now what happens if you leave four young men in a room with 100 old DVDs, a Play Station 2 and a computer? You might not get the greatest novel of all time but it turns out you might get a pretty good hip hop album.

With the three months of free time granted by SARS Yin Ts'ang started work on their first album *For the People*. They quickly signed a contract on July 4 that year with Scream Records, a subsidiary of Jing Wen, which is one of China's largest record labels. *For the Peo-*



Josh Heffernan



Jeremy Johnston



Mark Caster



Wang Bo

ple was released later in 2003 and it took the Chinese music scene by storm, selling 60,000 records. This is about a third of what a well-known pop star's album might sell. Sales such as these are unheard of for a debut album of any group let alone in an undeveloped musical genre.

When asked how difficult it is to introduce hip hop to a Chinese audience Heffernan replies, "Chinese people are willing to check

out anything new. There is lots of curiosity, especially in the cities where the people are more cosmopolitan. After all hip hop music is very popular in the West." Local Beijing club-goers are embracing US hip hop with a voracious appetite and familiar names can often be heard in night clubs. This may just be down to club owners following the latest trend, but hip hop is hot right now. Heffernan adds, "Currently it is the teenagers and people in their early twenties who are listening to hip hop but hopefully it will spread to other age groups." This will be helped with the introduction of more Chinese hip hop, so that fans can understand the lyrics

and connect with the messages that the artists are introducing.

## A different sound

Yin Ts'ang have a pretty relaxed aura about them. They don't consider themselves musicians or artists, just a tight group of good friends doing something that they love. When asked how they feel about being an international group they answer with a cultivated nonchalance as if they had never thought about it. "We aren't aware of breaking any cultural barriers and we don't believe we are introducing anything new to the Chinese music scene," says Johnston. When asked whether or not they would have made music in North America both Johnston and Caster replied with a passionate yes. "The case is I ended up here in China so this is where I will make my music," Johnston says.

At the beginning, Yin Ts'ang were condemned by some in the Chinese hip hop community. They were criticized for rapping in Chinese rather than in English, and castigated as a novelty act relying on the mix of foreigners and Chinese to gain press coverage. It was also suggested that it was only thanks to Webber that the group did well. The group ignored the criticism and continued working to win over new fans. They used the internet to share their music and posted 20 songs on their website.

The band say they're trying to break the mould of traditional hip hop by moving away from traditional subjects like sex, money, murder and cars, just to name a few. Johnston believes that American hip hop has become predictable. "Now all hip hop sounds the same. The genre has peaked. Nothing new has come out in a long time. The only thing approaching a breath of fresh air would have to be 50 Cent but even he's not saying anything new. He's spitting out the same clichés from ten years ago." When asked whether or not they are limited by this framework Josh answers, "We are trying to explode the idea of limitations. That is why all our songs on the album have different ideas." Johnston is also eager to try something different. "We could have been like Will Smith and made every song about girls," he says. Indeed, the songs on the album come from a very personal source as they each explore different facets of modern life in China. *Welcome to Beijing* is an introduction to Beijing for the intrepid traveller.

## Free styling

The group see hip hop as a limitless form of expression rather than just a musical genre with rules and regulations. Each group member takes a very different approach to the art of music making. On his song *Yellow Road*, Webber wrote about how he was tired of people telling him that he didn't fit into the real hip hop mode, that he shouldn't be wearing hip hop clothing, or that he shouldn't be free styling in Chinese. He wrote the song to prove he can make good hip hop anyway. Webber admits, "I've never made much music before so it comes from a very natural source."

Caster and Johnston both believe that when rapping you should try to turn yourself off; let the words come and try not to think so much. "Otherwise you will simply be playing back memorized lyrics," Johnston says.

Heffernan believes that he is the worst rapper of the group. He tries to keep a level head about the whole process and add some coherency to the improvised lyrics. "It's more like a stream of consciousness to me and confessional like a journal entry." Heffernan has actually not written any of the music on their current album, even though he is the only one with any real musical training, having studied the trumpet for ten years. He's also the only one who can read music.

So are Yin Ts'ang just a band in the right place, at the right time? What can't be denied is that they are on the cutting edge of a new musical wave in China and they've already had an unprecedented effect on the industry and subsequently on a lot of young minds.

Photos provided by Yin Ts'ang







Five-stringed rosewood lute

By Song Yin

An exhibition of Japanese national treasures currently underway in Beijing marks the first time that such a large collection of important cultural artefacts from China's island neighbor has been displayed here. According to the National Museum of China, which is hosting the exhibition, the show comprises of 99 cultural relics, one third of which are categorized as "important culture property and national treasure of Japan." Six of the items are listed as Japanese national treasures.

The exhibits include elaborate pottery pieces, large ritual bronzes from the Yayoi period, figures of Buddha from the Nara and Heian periods, and delicate lacquer work, folding screens and kimonos from



# Journey to Japan

the Momoyama and Edo periods.

## Five sections

The exhibition is divided into five parts: Ancient Japan, Buddhist Art, Treasure in Shoso-in Treasure House, Patrician Lives and Warrior Costumes and Early Modern Age.

Items in the Ancient Japan section range from prehistoric times to around 12,000 years ago. The representative works are pottery, weapons such as lances and knives and haniwa figures, which were buried with the dead during the Kofun Period.

Buddhist Art features a variety of religious artworks. In the middle of the sixth century, Buddhism was introduced to Japan through the Korea peninsula. Buddhist carvings and paintings then started to appear, and the Japanese added their special techniques, creating new characteristics.

Treasure in Shoso-in Hall contains the most exquisite pieces of the exhibition. Shoso-in housed religious items used in Todaiji Temple and ancient items that came to Japan via the Silk Road. It was built using the unique *azekurazukuri* (log cabin) method, and the ancient treasures kept there were under the supervision of the Imperial Household Agency. Part of the collection of some 9,000 pieces is displayed every autumn at the Nara National Museum.

Patrician Lives and Warrior Costumes displays a combination of patrician elegance and warrior energy, while Early Modern Age highlights Japanese people's vivid creativity.

## National treasures

The six national treasures on display in the exhibition are: the Sutra of Golden Light of the Supreme Kings, in gold letters on purple paper from the Nara period; two pieces of



Kofun period Haniwa a Shaman-ess

Photos by Bao Wei

cowhide Kerman Buddhist Temple ornaments from the Heian period; Chronicles of Japan, a fragment from the Heian period; a Haniwa figure of a standing man in armor from the late Kofun period and a gold lacquered toiletry box of paulownia.

The Sutra of the Golden Light of the Supreme Kings is the magnum opus of Japanese sutra. Comprising of 10 volumes in all, only the second volume is on show. The gold lacquered paulownia toiletry box is of a kind used by noble ladies in the palace.

There are also other exquisite exhibits, such as the seated Mahavaiocana Tathagata from the Heian period, the demon-faced Onigawara tile from the Nara period, a saddle decorated with cherry-blossom designs in radan shell inlay from the Kamakura period and a writing desk and ink box decorated with paulownia bamboo and phoenix designs, from the Momoyama period.

The five-stringed Japanese lute, rosewood with raden shell inlay (reproduction) from the Meiji period (1868-1912), kept at the Tokyo National Museum, is the treasure among all treasure displayed. The central picture in the lute is of a man playing lute while riding on a camel.

According to the National Museum of China, the total worth of cultural relics on display is US \$48.4 million. The exhibition hall is being kept at constant temperature and humidity to protect the relics.



Kamakura period saddle decorated with cherry-blossom designs

## Cultural background of the exhibition

The National Museum of China cooperated with the Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs, Nara National Museum and the Japan Foundation to hold the exhibition.

Cultural exchange between China and Japan has a long history, dating back as far as the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC - 8 AD). In the Tang Dynasty, many ambassadors and learned monks were sent to China from Japan to study. At the same time, many Chinese monks traveled eastward to Japan, bringing the exchanges between the two countries to an unprecedentedly high level.

The culture of Japan has been greatly impacted by both Chinese and Korean culture. The Chinese and Korean craftwork techniques were also used for reference by the Japanese. But Japan developed many techniques to a point beyond what the Chinese and Koreans did.

The exhibition highlights the roots of Japanese culture by showing the elite objects from all of Japan's historical periods. These exhibits reflect the life, custom and religious beliefs of ancient Japanese society.

**Where:** National Museum of China, east side of Tian'anmen Square

**When:** till June 30 (closed on June 14)

**Admission:** 30 yuan for adults, free for children. College students can enter for free on Fridays from midday to 4:30 pm.

## Thousands of Relics Unearthed at Prehistoric Site

Archaeologists have excavated over 7,000 articles at a Neolithic site in Karuo, a village in Chamdo Prefecture in southwestern Tibet. The current excavation, the third at the site, began in 2002.

The articles date back some 5,000 years, and include 1,060 stone ware items, 1,284 pottery fragments and 4,755 pieces of bone ware.

"All those discoveries will be valuable for research on the lifestyle, production modes, social structure, beliefs and conventions and environment of the local prehistoric people," Yongzhong Dawa, who is in charge of the cultural relics administration of Chamdo Prefecture told media.

The Karuo site, discovered in 1977, is the oldest such site discovered in Tibet. The first two excavations were made in 1978 and 1979, during which house relics and a large quantity of stone ware, pottery and bone ware were unearthed.

"From millet unearthed during the first two excavations, it can be concluded that farming was the major economic mode of the local people in the past," said Yongzhong Dawa.

"The earthen houses and painted pottery, remnants of millet and evidence of domesticated pigs all prove that in the prehistoric age, the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau had close communication with the agricultural civilization of the Central Plains," he added.

Containing abundant cultural and historical material, the Karuo site is considered by archaeologists as the most typical and best preserved example of the cultural mode of ancient people living on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. It was listed as a major cultural relics site under state protection in 1996.

(Xinhua)

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By Liu Qiongxiang/Zeng Han/Yu Shanshan

A debate rages among Beijingers about foreign architects designing capital city icons, a Guangzhou magazine has invited readers to take a look at the work of three Chinese architects.

The May 14 issue of *City Pictorial* features three Chinese architects born in the 1960s and displays their designs for buildings in Shanghai, Nanjing, Suzhou, Ningbo and Hangzhou.

Unlike the new CCTV Tower, National Theatre and National Stadium for 2008 Olympic Games, most of the designs are currently in use and thus easier to assess.

#### Homely Wang Shu

A graduate of Dongnan University in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province 16 years ago, Wang boldly asserts "There is no modern architecture in China, nor modern architects." Asked his opinion of the explosive development of urban building in recent years, this 41-year-old architect attacks the idea of "modern architecture".

"It's an abnormal development period...with such large quantities and so fast a speed of building, architects have no chance to think about even the very basic questions."

All of Wang's design concepts – whether a residential house or a school – start at "home". His "vertical courtyard" – six residential buildings in Hangzhou, Zhejiang – is scheduled for completion at the end of 2005.

Each building is nearly 100 meters high and can house 800 families. The design guarantees people a front and a back yard outside their home, no matter what floor they live.

"People who live in such a house can point and say, 'the courtyard with the osmanthus flowers is where I live' – I think a person's identity begins at home. But today's identikit residential buildings have ruined this individuality."

His other big projects include a new art school at Xiangshan of Hangzhou. Another is the Wenzheng Library of Suzhou University, a white building above water which earned him fame four years ago. "I try to lead a life that connects with ordinary people, not merely artists," he says.

#### Functional Zhang Lei

"Fundamental architecture demands an honest, reasonable and humanistic approach to building. It doesn't have to answer questions like 'what is architecture?', nor be a slave to any set style," wrote Zhang Lei, a roommate of Wang Shu at Dongnan University.

This passion for functionality

# Architects Pause to Wax Philosophical



Wang Shu



Zhang Lei



Ma Qingyun



A mock-up of Wang Shu's Vertical Courtyard in Hangzhou, Zhejiang



Ma Qingyun's Tianyi Square in Ningbo, Zhejiang



Wang Shu's Wenzheng Library of Suzhou University in Suzhou, Jiangsu



Zhang Lei's yard of the National Genetic Engineering Office Building in a suburb of Nanjing, Jiangsu



Ma Qingyun's library of Ningbo Institute of Technology in Ningbo, Zhejiang

formed working alongside other architects when they must decide – fast – how to build houses at a reasonable cost for people who had lost their homes to floods in the summer of 1998.

Though the dormitory Taoyuan02 in Nanjing University won a Chinese architecture prize in 2002, it was not much loved by its residents. One of the problems was the pretty shutters, designed to let in cool air during the summer and maintain student privacy. But unexpectedly, after the building went into use, Zhang received complaints that because the shutters blocked out the

sunlight, students had no sense of the cycles of the sun and overslept. "It's really sad to hear that the students who live in my dormitory have no love for my special design," he said. "China is still not in a time where we can talk about really excellent buildings. People are just satisfied if they have a building with only a few problems."

After an architect completes a design, he hands the building over to workers, which may not result in a perfect interpretation of his plans – like the landscape outside the National Genetic Engineering Office Building in

the New and High Technology Industry Development Zone in the suburbs of Nanjing. Zhang has learned to accept such disappointments with a little light humor. "That building actually had the least problems of my career. I can't control the whole process. In this era of fast development, I don't have time to make things more complicated."

#### Spammy Ma Qingyun

Convinced of "temporary formality", Ma dubs his Shanghai company's design motto "SPAM": Strategy, Planning, Architecture, Media.

"Spam is a kind of assorted meat – no matter whether it is pork or chicken, as long as it is rich and nutritious, we'll put it in."

In the eyes of Ma, an ancient Chinese architecture graduate of Tsinghua University, all architecture is temporary.

Ma encourages Chinese people to take the view that nothing is forever when judging new buildings in China. This "temporary architecture" theory explains why most Chinese modern buildings look rough around the edges.

"Western architecture, from the ancient Greek, was set up with

a standard of eternal existence. Chinese architecture is the exact opposite. Wooden buildings are burned to the ground with every new dynasty. In Chinese philosophy, buildings are made of material that will not last forever. The only thing that lasts forever is thought and spirit."

He stresses formality for formality's sake at the totally new Tianyi Square in Ningbo and the eye-catching library of Ningbo Institute of Technology.

"How can you abandon formality? Formality is the existing mode of everything in the world," says Ma.

Photos by Zeng Han

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By Yu Shanshan

After two years of fine-tuning and an investment of over 500 million yuan, China Children's Art Theater's musical *Shangri-La* opened on May 27 for an 11-day season. Response so far has been luke-warm, with the show being all but eclipsed by Meng Jinghui's children's drama *Labyrinth*, staged at the Century Theatre during the same period.

Set on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, Ouyang Yibing's story is simple – the forces of good are represented by a young man named Dawa (Deng Hongbo), who is trying to discover a paradise-like place named Shangri-La, a golden peacock (Xu Yang), who transforms into a human being and falls in love with Dawa, and three red foxes who help the lovers out of danger.

The forces of evil are represented by a witch (Li Zheng) who desires to control the world, prevent people from finding Shangri-La, and is obsessed with killing the peacock girl and taking the emerald she wears on her forehead, which is able to eradicate her evil power.

In between are Nima (Liu Xiaoming), Dawa's old brother, and Tusi (Bao Gang), the leader of the Tibetan area, both of whom are used by the witch to reach her goal, but finally come back to the side of good. In the end, the witch is dispatched and people discover that the real Shangri-La is a place that exists in their hearts.

As usual in such stories, the most interesting character is the baddy. As the witch, Li Zheng is an impressive performer, whether she is dancing, singing or simply hanging around being evil. The tap dance by Tusi, his four attendants and three red foxes who come to trick him into freeing Dawa and the peacock girl is another highlight.

But while the theme song, *Song of Nature*, composed by Zou Ye, is catchy, it falls well short of anything that could be called a classic.

"No matter whether it has a successful premiere or not, we will continue to work on *Shangri-La* until it becomes known as one of the best Chinese musicals," said Ouyang. Judging by the half-hearted response from the audience on opening night, he and the cast and crew still have a long way to go.

# Not Quite Shangri-La



Photo by Li Yan

## Billboard Singles Top 5

Title	Artist	Album
Burn	Usher	Confessions
I Don't Wanna Know	Mario Winans Featuring Enya & P.Diddy	Hurt No More
Naughty Girl	Beyonce	Dangerously In Love
Yeah!	Usher Featuring Lil Jon & Ludacris	Confessions
The Reason	Hoobastank	The Reason



## Official UK Singles Chart Top 5

Title	Artist	Album
F.U.R.B. (F U Right Back)	Frankee	Furb (CD-Single)
Trick Me	Kelis	Tasty
F**k It (I Don't Want You Back)	Eamon	I Don't Want You Back
Hotel	Cassidy Featuring R Kelly	Split Personalities
On My Knees	The 411 Featuring Ghostface Killah	(CD-Single)



On the Billboard Hot 100, Usher joins an elite group of artists this week as he posts three singles in the top 10. Not since the Bee Gees in 1978 and the Beatles in 1964 has a lead act accomplished such a feat. *Confessions* tops the Billboard 200 for an eighth week. Since its April re-

lease, the set has sold 3.57 million copies in the United States, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

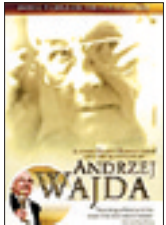
On the UK Charts, R Kelly finally entered the top 5 with *Hotel*, two months after it made the Billboard top 5. Last year Kelly told Billboard that he had recorded five albums

of material. The R&B star dips into that motherlode with the double-CD, *Happy People/U Saved Me*, due July 13 via Jive. Featuring love songs and dance tracks on one disc and inspirational music on the other, the 20-track CD is Kelly's eighth Jive studio album.

## What's on DVD

By Jiang Haoshu  
Quality Independent Cinema:  
Andrzej Wajda

Andrzej Wajda is a renowned Polish director and winner of the Academy Award and Berlin International Film Festival's Honorary Award for Lifetime Contribution. This eight-DVD set features the movies *Canal*, *Ashes and Diamonds*, *Everything for Sale*, *Landscape*



after *Battle*, *Promised Land*, *Man of Marble*, *Young Girls of Wilko* and *Zemsta*, as well as promotional shots, stills and a biography of Wajda. Polish with Chinese subtitles. DVD 5.

### Mystic River

"We bury our sins, we wash them clean." Directed by Clint Eastwood in 2003, *Mystic River* revives the long tradition of Hollywood psychological films. It was nominated for six Academy Awards and collected two, for Best Actor (Sean



Penn) and Best Supporting Actor (Tim Robbins). English with Chinese subtitles. DVD 5.

### Oldboy

A man escaping from jail after 15 years seeks revenge on his unknown enemy. The story is an adaptation by Korean director Chan-wook Park of a Japanese anime film. Starring Min-sik Choi, the film won the Grand Jury Prize at this year's Cannes Film Festival. Korean with Chinese and English subtitles. DVD 5.



## WORLDWIDE

### Prince William Hints at Military Career

Britain's Prince William said Saturday he may follow family tradition when he finishes university and pursue a career in the armed forces. The 21-year-old student gave the broadest hint yet he would follow in the footsteps of his father, uncles and grandfather. "A career in the armed services would be the best thing at the moment because it would be lovely to recognize all the hard work that the armed forces are doing," the prince told reporters during a photocall at his father the Prince of Wales' farm in Gloucestershire. (Reuters)



Prince William

### American Idol Finale Ratings Down from Last Year

Some 31 million viewers tuned in to see soulful single mom Fantasia Barrino crowned as the newest instant pop star on Fox TV's American Idol, capping the show's most controversial edition with a smaller audience than last year. Barrino, 19, of High Point, North Carolina, edged out 16-year-old runner-up Diana DeGarmo, of Snellville, Georgia, in Wednesday night's climax to the third installment of a talent contest that has given Fox its first No. 1 hit on US television. (Reuters)



Fantasia Barrino

### Paltrow Says 'Ja' to Marlene Dietrich Movie

Less than two weeks after becoming a real-life mom, Oscar-winning actress Gwyneth Paltrow is looking forward to an altogether different role – that of sultry screen legend Marlene Dietrich. Paltrow, 31, has clinched a deal with DreamWorks SKG to produce and possibly star in a movie about the German-born film icon adapted from the memoir, *Marlene Dietrich*, written by the late performer's daughter, Maria Riva, the studio said Thursday. Dietrich's grandson, Peter Riva, gave Paltrow's a thumbs-up to play the part. "She has the stillness required in an aristocrat, and the ability to plumb the depths of character without too much emotion, which was Marlene's trademark," Riva told entertainment trade paper *Daily Variety*. (Reuters)



Gwyneth Paltrow

### Elizabeth Taylor Sues to Keep Van Gogh

Screen legend Elizabeth Taylor has sued the family of a victim of Nazi rule in Germany as part of a legal battle to hold on to a precious Van Gogh painting that she claims is rightfully hers. Taylor filed a lawsuit in Los Angeles against the South African and Canadian descendants of a Jewish woman, Margarete Mauthner who fled the Nazis during World War II, who said the painting was looted from their relative and have demanded its return or a share of its sale proceeds.

Double Oscar-winner Taylor, 72, says she bought the 1889 work, *View of the Asylum and Chapel at Saint-Remy* for 257,600 at a Sotheby's auction in London in 1963, at the height of her fame. She claims the family has failed to show that the artwork was ever illegally seized from Mauthner. (AFP)

Edited by Yu Shanshan



Bono

### U2's Bono Enlisted for EU Talks

Irish rock star Bono has been drafted by the Irish government to address EU development ministers in Dublin next week about issues related to Africa, including AIDS, trade and debt, a spokesman said. Bono is internationally known as a campaigner for Africa – raising public awareness and lobbying governments on issues such as debt relief, poverty reduction and the link between trade and development. (AFP)

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## Lucky Whatnots & Folksy Gizmos

By Wang Yao

Foreign apprentices study at his workshop opposite the Confucius Temple, a zone of small craftwork shops. Owner of Jing Tu Yi Fang (Clean Earth Artistic House) Liang Daxing combines his tailoring skills and enthusiasm for Chinese folk art to earn a living.

Many items are unique, but there is always space for familiar favorites: fabric "Jixiang (lucky) tigers" and "lucky lions" in Beijing, Shandong, Shanxi and Hebei styles (25-229 yuan). Chinese people love their homonyms, says Liang. For example, a horse ("ma" 马) over luck ("fu" 福), produces the phrase: "Ma shang you fu". Ma shang means "immediately". You fu means "get lucky". He offers plenty of handiwork available for sale employing this popular motif.

Liang points at the four-foot tall "Banana Girl" on the wall (380 yuan). He has dressed the cardboard Xishuangbanna (in Yunnan) girls in red and green clothes. Opposite, there

is a "mountain boy" of the same material (120 yuan).

An odd-looking tiger for 280 yuan is said to banish evil spirits, protect the young and the old, the poor and the weak. The cotton tiger of rings, beads and colorful fleece has embroidered eyes and mouth and a strange, snaky nose.

As it is the Chinese year of the Monkey, Liang has modeled a pride "scooping up the moon from the river" for 50 yuan. The monkey at the bottom reaches out for the moon in water, and the moon is made of jade from Dali, Yunnan Province.

**Where:** 28 Guozijian, Dongcheng District  
**Open:** 9am-5pm  
**Tel:** 6401 1746 / 13683514421

Jixiang tiger



## In Love with Linen

By Wang Yao

Most of the products at Ai Ma Ren ("Love Linen People") are handmade. Shop owner Yin Mosi says her boutique aims for "art of individuality and style, elegance and taste".

Linen articles take pride of place. A four-leaf-clover and linen (150 yuan) office/school bag combines red, yellow, blue, brown, purple and green. There at least 200 stripes along the fringe.

Made by Yin herself, the linen purple-brown dress (220 yuan) forms artificial drapes. Chinese traditional mandarin ducks are embroidered in red and yellow into a dark green linen jacket (186 yuan). There are hanging sleeves and a thin inner girdle below the waist. The buttons are made of rosewood.

Yin recommends her pink pants (100 yuan). The waist and legs benefit from three dimensional-sewing, with the knees and ankles rounded off with some hand-made edging.

A white cabinet with five drawers (680 yuan) by Ma Jun stands here. The cabinet tips its hat to Tibet, with blue strips and totems. The cabinet is ideal for containing jewelry, craftwork and girly knickknacks.

**Where:** 178, Jiu Gu Lou Dajie, Dongcheng District  
**Open:** 11 am-7pm  
**Tel:** 13661109141



Linen is perfect for summer.

## Traditional Tang Family Toys

By Wang Yao

A "Grandfather Rabbit" sits on the doorstep to a world of timeless classic Chinese toys where a fourth-generation Manchu toy maker and his daughter are maintaining the tradition of Peking folk artisans.

The rabbits seem to be breeding at Sheng Tang Xuan (Splendid Tang's Hall) with hundreds of sizes and styles on display (20-300 yuan). Made of clay in florid red and yellow, the clay figures each display different facial expressions.

Tang Qiliang says the camel (30-220 yuan) was introduced to Beijing by the Manchu. The Tang family are famous for their special paper variety: involving more than 20 layers of rice paper, hair and other decorations.

A 2 meter-high windmill of rice paper and bamboo stands in the middle of the store. When the wind blows, the windmill makes a harmonious sound. There are also clay characters A-Fu, Ba Xian Guo Hai (The Eight Immortals Crossing the Sea) and masks of Zhong Kui (the god who wards off evil spirits), Guan Gong (God of War), Cai Shen (God of Fortune), and the Monkey King in the store.

**Where:** 38 Guozijian Dongcheng District  
**Open:** 9am-5pm  
**Tel:** 8404 7197, 13621127188  
**Website:** www.chinafolkcrafts.com  
**E-mail:** shengtangxuan@sohu.com



'Grandfather Rabbit' has guarded Tang's family for four generations.



The four heroes from the Journey to the West



## A Touch of Leather

By Chen Si

It's fun to touch and sniff. This leather goods shop Su Ren Pi Ju ("Simple Life Leather"), run by Mao Shuhong, specializes in shoes and bags. The dark green or dark red sandals (168 yuan) here have rubber soles. Some sandals are decorated with horsehair or cattle hair (248 yuan).

This tactile place provides briefcas-

es and also handmade satchels resembling small barrels. Wallets, keychain and cellphone cases are also on offer, ranging from 20 to 100 yuan.

**Where:** First floor of Huaqing Jia-yuan, Chengfu Lu, Wudaokou, Haidian District

**Open:** 10 am-9 pm  
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Photos by Li Shuzhuan

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# Razzle-Dazzle Roughage: the Salad



By Joel Kirkhart

Though greens-based salads are relatively new to China, they have developed for thousands of years in other parts of the world, where cooling and healthy concoctions based on lettuce or other leafy plants have long been savored in summer. This country is hardly without tasty salad-like dishes (think *laohucai*, a cold dish of strips of cucumber, green chili pepper, spring onion and cilantro mixed with sesame oil), but local restaurants tend to fall short when it comes to actual salad. Most likely, they will serve a bowl of chopped iceberg lettuce and tomato wedges smothered in mass-produced Thousand Island dressing. What a shame.

In their full glory, salads are dishes to relish and revere, not just a way to get one's roughage. By choosing the right restaurants or taking the time to cook at home, it is not hard to get a truly satisfying salad without too much effort.

When ordering at restaurants, it helps to know the basics, particularly some of the classic salads most likely to show up on the menus of Western-style restaurants. Arguably the best known such salad is the beloved Caesar: fresh greens, traditionally romaine lettuce (see below), topped with a garlic-y vinaigrette. Croutons, anchovies and parmesan cheese can get involved, and truly sophisticated restaurants will make the dressing before diners' eyes.

Another veteran is the cobb salad, probably better known in Beijing by its lesser form: the chef salad. Both are mixtures of greens with more filling ingredients: chopped chicken or ham, bacon, hard-boiled eggs and cheese. The classic Cobb is particularly flavorful with crumbled blue cheese and vinaigrette dressing.

One of the fabulous French salads is the salad nicoise, meaning in the style of the foods of the city of Nice. For this classic, fresh lettuce is dressed up with garlic, tomatoes, anchovies or tuna, olives, capers and lemon juice.

Italy has also made contributions to the salad world, and is known among other things for its fabulous tomatoes and arugula, a peppery green eaten since Roman times. No matter the ingredients, most Italian-style salads benefit from the presence of plenty of silky olive oil, preferably a rich, fruit extra virgin variety.



Italian-style salad

## Recipe: Tomato, Mozzarella and Greens Salad

This classic, called "insalata caprese", looks beautiful, and is a snap to prepare, perfect for a hot summer day or an elegant dinner. Luckily for Beijingers, a local company makes pretty good fresh mozzarella not too expensive and can be found in most foreigner-oriented supermarkets, like Jenny Lou's.

1 kilo ripe tomatoes (about 4 big ones), sliced into rounds about 1/2 cm thick  
500 grams fresh mozzarella balls, sliced into thin rounds  
1/4 cup packed fresh basil leaves, washed and dried well  
1/8 cup arugula leaves, washed, dried and julienned  
3-4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil salt and black pepper to taste

On a large platter, overlap layers of tomato, mozzarella and basil leaves. Sprinkle with arugula, drizzle with oil, then season with salt and pepper.

Considering how hot it gets there, it should come as no surprise that people in the Middle East have long cultivated a love of salad. One classic is tabbouleh, a mixture of cooked cracked wheat with tomatoes, cucumber, mint and parsley. Cracked wheat can be hard to find in Beijing, so here is another salad that makes use of those cooling flavors but is much easier to put with materials more readily at hand..

## Recipe:

### Chopped Middle-Eastern salad

1 lemon  
3/4 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon black pepper  
3 tablespoons olive oil  
2 cucumbers, peeled, halved lengthwise, seeded, and diced  
500 grams tomatoes (3 medium), diced  
1 cup finely chopped red onion (1) or chopped scallions (5)  
1 cup finely chopped fresh parsley  
1/2 cup finely chopped fresh mint  
Juice lemon to get two tablespoons of juice. Combine lemon juice with salt, pepper and oil and whisk together to combine.

Put all other ingredients in a bowl. Add dressing and stir to coat salad thoroughly. Makes four to six servings.

Southeast Asian countries have made a near-science of salads that feature all kinds of fresh ingredients, from seafood to noodles to chilies to fruit. The classic salad below makes use of the crisp texture and slightly bitter taste of green papayas (*qing mugu*) in a spicy, slightly sweet, very delicious mix.



## Recipe:

### Thai green papaya salad

Versions of this salad turn up all over Southeast Asia, but because green papayas and the other ingredients can be found in many local markets, there is no need to travel far to enjoy it. While it is relatively straightforward, making this salad right can take time, as it turns out best when pounded by hand with a mortar and pestle.

4 cloves garlic  
5 red Thai bird chilies  
2 tablespoons dried shrimp (*haimi*), soaked to soften  
2 teaspoons sugar  
1 small tomato, diced  
2 long beans, cut into 2 cm lengths  
1 unripe green papaya (about 300 g), peeled and shredded  
2 tablespoons fish sauce  
2 tablespoons lime juice  
2-3 tablespoons coarsely crushed roasted peanuts

Using a mortar and pestle, pound garlic, chilies, dried shrimp and sugar until well broken up. Add the beans and pound a few times, then add half the diced tomato and pound few times more. Add papaya to the mortar and pound until lightly bruised. (If using a small mortar, follow the same process but divide ingredients into two equal batches and combine after pounding.) Add the fish sauce, lime juice and peanuts to the papaya mixture, mix well and adjust to taste. Makes four to six servings.

## Get Your Greens: a Guide

By Joel Kirkhart

Lettuce, a leafy green native to the eastern Mediterranean and western Asia, has been cultivated for thousands of years across the world, including China, where – along with cabbage – it is a symbol of good luck. Today, it is most likely known as a base for salads.

While many people in China used to deliberately stay away from uncooked greens for health purposes, these days the advent of organic growing methods, green foods and hydroponics has put all kinds of delicious, healthy and reliably safe greens on the market. Telling them apart, and what to do with them, is another matter.

Oft-maligned iceberg lettuce remains the green of choice in most restaurants, but all kinds of tastier, more nutritious varieties are available. A general rule is that the greener the leaf, the more nutritious. Mixing things up is a great way of improving the texture and flavor of a salad and of ensuring a broader spectrum of nutrients.

## Lettuces:



**Iceberg:** This most familiar of lettuces has a tight head, pale green leaves, mild flavor and crisp texture, which mostly accounts for its popularity.



**Romaine:** The long, deep green leaves of this lettuce form a loaf-shaped head and have a relatively strong, but not bitter taste. They are the classic main ingredient in a Caesar salad.

**Butterhead:** This type includes Boston and Bibb lettuces, which have bright green leaves, loose heads, a chewy, buttery

texture and sweet, mild flavor. Hydroponically-grown Boston lettuce can be found in some local supermarkets.



**Stem:** This variety is common in China (it is also known as Chinese lettuce) and has easily-identifiable long, thick edible stems. It is often cooked in this country, or served for dunking in hot pot, but is fine raw for salads when cleaned.

Of course, salads are by no means limited to lettuce. Some other greens that are great for salad include:

**Arugula:** Pungent arugula leaves have a crisp, peppery taste that is a natural compliment for tomatoes.



**Endive:** The while and pale-green leaves of this compact, ovoid-shaped green are crisp with a bitter, grassy taste. The narrow leaves are taut enough to be served as crudite for scooping up dip. Endive also goes great in a salad, but tends to be pricey, so use sparingly.



**Escarole:** This green is easy to pick out with its wavy leaves. The flavor is bitter, but not unappealingly so.



**Radicchio:** This Italian favorite resembles a small head of red cabbage and has a flavor similar to endive but is not as crisp. Because it is expensive, it is often used sparingly to add color to salads.

**Spinach:** Especially young, tender baby spinach makes for a wonderful salad, like a classic match of spinach greens with bacon and mustard dressing.

There's little sorrier in the salad world than beautiful greens either smothered in gloppy dressing or left naked and undressed. Dieticians often remind us that heavy use of oil-based salad dressings negates the weight-loss functions of a salad, but let's face it - most greens need a little help.

Therefore, don't skimp on the dressing, just choose ones that are full of flavor so a little can go a long way. Using healthy oils, such as olive oil, to bind a dressing, can also ease some of the guilt. At the same time, for top health benefits, avoid mayonnaise-based dressings like Thousand Island. Not only does their heavy taste drown the vegetables' natural flavors, they are chock full of calories.

## Recipe:

### Korean salad dressing

Here's an easy and delicious dressing that has a distinct flavor of the East. It is flavorful enough to turn a simple bowl of lettuce or spinach leaves into a delicious dish.

2 tablespoons soy sauce, or more to taste  
2 tablespoons rice vinegar, or more to taste  
1/2 teaspoon sugar, or more to taste  
1/2 teaspoon paprika, hot or cayenne pepper  
2 teaspoons roasted sesame oil  
1 1/2 tablespoons sesame seeds, toasted  
1/2 teaspoon black pepper, freshly ground

Whisk ingredients together in a bowl, or put into a jar, seal and shake thoroughly to mix.

Photos by Joel Kirkhart



## Personal Classifieds

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Sam Shi wants to buy an apartment of two or three bedrooms in Tianxiu Garden or Shangdi Xili. 500,000 to 600,000 yuan is acceptable. Contact Sam Shi, 13366112250

Apartment for rent with one living room, two bedrooms and one bathroom. All rooms face south. Near Poly Plaza, three minutes to subway, convenient for supermarkets, banks and restaurants. 2,300 yuan per month. Contact Luo Ning by email: wildguy23@sina.com

One apartment in East Lake Villa near Dongzhimen and one near CBD in Sunshine 100 for rent. The one in East Lake, 293 square meters with three bedrooms, is \$5,200 per month. The other, two bedrooms, 115 square meters, is

8,000 yuan per month. Contact David, 13810237866 or email winin2004@tom.com

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Maggie, 28, experienced and well-educated, good master of English, with six years experience in import and export, is seeking position in joint-venture companies. email: maggie1115@163.net

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## Language Exchange

A Chinese girl, well educated, is looking for a native English speaker as a language exchange partner in Beijing. She can speak standard Mandarin and English fluently. She would like to help foreigners with a convenient life. Her email:

air\_1999@sina.com

Xiao, a TV news reporter and editor near Lido, wants to make some friends with native English speaker as language partner. His email: mchyyj@sina.com.cn

A girl who has good education background and works in economic field seeks a native English speaker for language exchange. Her mobile: 13681170967; Email: xiaofanglee@163.com

Sherry would like to be your friend for English language exchange, English learner or a native speaker preferred. Her email: cnscherry123@hotmail.com

Frank wants to make friends (native speakers preferred) for language exchange.

His mobile: 13522129917, Tel: 6760 7331 (6 pm later)

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Andy, a senior of China University of Politics and Law who pursues fantasy, perfection and dream, wants to find some foreign friends especial-

ly English native speakers. Contact: Andy, 13161648746, email: fireclub@163.com

Dear Sophia, you deserve something special on your birthday tomorrow (June 5). Thinking of you as always. May your youth and beauty never fade from your heart! Yours Denny.

Congratulations Joel and Sarah, who escaped to Shenyang this week to tie the knot!

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## Movies

## Trois Places Pour le 26

Directed by Jacques Demy, starring Francoise Fabian, Mathilda May and Yves Montand, this is a classic French musical describing the life of a famous TV and stage star, Yves Montand.

**Where:** Zhongying Cinema, Xiao Xitian, Xijiekou Waidajie  
**When:** June 10, 6:30 pm **Admission:** 25 yuan **Tel:** 6226 3455



## Italian movie

*La Casa delle Finestre che Ridono* (*The House with Laughing Windows*), 1976, directed by Pupi Avati, starring Lino Capolicchio, Francesca Marciano, Gianni Cavina.

This is one of the great Italian horror movies of the '70s. It takes place in a remote Italian village where an art expert is called to restore a decaying fresco in a local church.

The fresco depicts the slaughter of St. Sebastian in graphic fashion, showing several large knives imbedded in his chest and stomach. Blood flows down his torso.

As the restoration expert works on the fresco, he becomes obsessed with finding the truth behind the fresco's creation, leading him on a spiralling path toward his own destruction. Italian with English subtitles

**Where:** Italian embassy, 2 Dong'erjie, Sanlitun **When:** 7 pm, June 10 **Admission:** Free **Tel:** 6532 2187



## Activities

## Bj Hikers

The hike follows an ancient pilgrim trail from Che'ying village in Mentogou district to Miaofengshan Temple.

**Where:** Mentogou, west of Beijing Pick **Meeting up:** 8:30 am at the Lido outside Starbucks June 6 **Cost:** 150 yuan for adults, (100 yuan for children under 12) **Tel:** 13910025516

## Service

## Children's Paradise at Traders Hotel



At the recently launched "Kids Corner," children are treated as VIP guests. Kids Corner features a safe and comfortable area for the young guests. There is a creativity area including various arts and crafts, the computer and TV area offering use of play stations and video games, and registration area for parents to relax while their children are enjoying themselves.

One of the favorite activities enjoyed by the children is the Junior Chef cooking class, with hotel expert chef's teaching children how to make their own pizza.

**Where:** Traders Café **When:** every Saturday and Sunday **Cost:** 108 yuan and 118 yuan for buffet lunch and dinner respectively, (half price for kids under 12) **Tel:** 6505 2277 ext 36

## Pleasure Knows No Price

The first Davidoff Café in Beijing has opened at Swissotel Deli. The café offers super premium coffee in a pleasant and relaxing setting surrounded by Davidoff products, ornaments, coffee beans and delicate Davidoff gift packs.

**Where:** Swissotel Beijing, Chaoyangmen Beidajie, Chaoyang **Tel:** 6553 2288

## High Club Horse Riding

This horse riding club is located in the grasslands in Hebei Province next to Kangxi Grassland. Green grass covers the plain that stretches to the horizon. English tour guide available.

**Meet:** 8:30 am, June 6, outside Big Easy (south gate of Chaoyang Park) Sign up at lucy@highclub.cn or **Tel:** 13011171326

## Shadow Puppet Village and Beach Tour

Chinese Culture Club is organizing a weekend trip to Laoting, a village in Hebei, home to the artisans who create traditional leather shadow puppets. We arrive in Laoting in time to join locals watching an evening outdoor shadow puppet performance, accompanied by a local opera troupe.

The next morning, visit the beach and nearby islands, before lunch in farmers' homes and a tour of their seafood farms. Return to Beijing Sunday 4 pm. Reservation can be made by phone, and a deposit is required.

Leave Beijing on June 5, meet at 3 pm June 5 at the Chinese Culture Club, (29, Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang) to catch the bus. **Cost:** 300 yuan, 270 yuan for members (includes transportation, lodging and performance) **Tel:** 8462 2081

5 and 6 **Admission:** Tickets only available from McDonald's outlets **Tel:** 6528 1188 ext. 876

## Vibes fetish night

This party will be held at two venues just a few metres apart. Now Club, which will join Vibes to host the party with only one entrance charge. Switch from venue to venue at will.

Now Club will host a night of live music featuring punksters Brain Failure, and ska band End of the World. Vibes features a line-up of DJs: Simon (industrial), Mickey Zhang (techno) and Will Yorke (house).

**Where:** Vibes, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, inside the 798 factory, Chaoyang **When:** 9 pm till late, June 5 **Admission:** 60 yuan (includes one drink at Vibes) **Tel:** 13522359073 (English), 13901382831 (Chinese)

## Exhibitions

## Out of Egypt

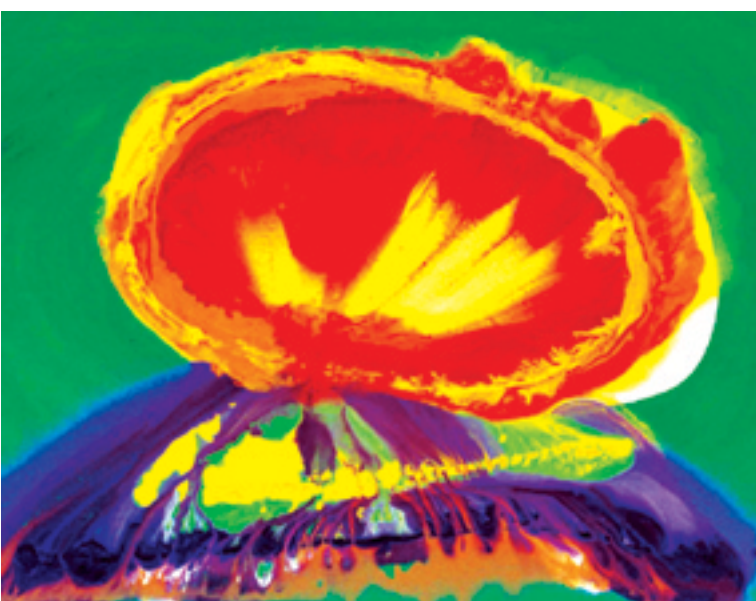
Held in conjunction with the first Egyptian Cultural Week, the exhibition features 127 Egyptian cultural relics and craft works, illustrating the rich history of one of the world's four ancient civilizations.

**Where:** China National Art Museum, 1 Wusi Dajie **When:** 9 am - 5 pm until July 4 **Tel:** 6513 2255

## Print Show

Creation Art Gallery is to stage a print theme exhibition featuring recent development of the centuries-old art form. The exhibition will feature the latest print works by Chinese artists.

**Where:** north end of Ritan Lu **When:** 10 am - 7 pm until June 11 **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8561 7570



## Ri Chu's Solo Exhibition

Ri Chu's paintings show her gift for using color.

**Where:** Fafa gallery, 1 Xiangjiang Beilu, Jingshun Road, Chaoyang **When:** June 6 - 20, 10:30 am - 8:00 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8450 6888

## Amazonia

The gorgeous scenery and culture of Brazil are brought to Beijing at an exhibition titled *Amazonia: Native Traditions*. The Amazon basin is the site of the world's largest tropical forest, and also home to an extraordinary social diversity. The objects and tools made by these people combine beauty and functionality. The exhibition features 344 traditional objects made by past and present indigenous peoples, and shows how they make the best use of the forest's natural resources.

**Where:** North gate tower of the Palace Museum, 4 Jingshan Qianjie **When:** 9 am - 4 pm until August 24 **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6513 2255

## June Online

A collection of 50 oil paintings by outstanding contemporary artists from all over China. The works show a variety of styles, representing the evolution of social experiences, ideologies and taste in art after China's opening up.

**Where:** New Millennium Gallery, Level 2 Diyang Building, Dong Sanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang, **When:** June 5-30, 9 am - 6 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8453 6193



## TV and Radio Highlights

CCTV-9

Monday - Friday

Around China	6:30 am
Cultural Express	8:30 am
Nature and Science	
Chinese Civilization	11:30 am
Cultural Express	2:30 pm
Nature and Science	
Learning Chinese	5:30 pm
Dialogue	7:30 pm

News Updates

Biz China	8 pm
Sports Scene	11:15 pm

Saturday

Travelogue	9:30 am
Center Stage	11:30 am

Sunday

Sports Weekend	10 am
Documentary	10:30 am
This Week	12:30 am

China Radio International 91.5 FM

Monday - Friday

Easy FM Afternoon	2-7 pm
Fun in Beijing	5:05-5:30 pm
Joy FM	9:05-11 pm
Saturday	
Music Memories	8:05-11 am
Euro Hit 40	12:05-1 pm
Music Sans Frontiers	6:05-8 pm
Joy FM	9:05-11 pm

Sunday

Music Memories	8:05-11 am
Jazz Beat	6:05-8 pm
Joy FM	9:05-11 pm

We are glad to receive your feedback. We will print employment, language exchange and accommodation info for individuals. Feel free to email us at bjtodayinfo@ynet.com or call 6590 2521

By Lü Pinrou





East Lake

Photo by Shu Xiaojie

# Wuhan – City of Rivers

By Wei Tingyu

Wuhan, the capital city of Hubei Province, has long been renowned as the City of Rivers. Lying at the confluence of the Yangtze and its tributary, the Han River, Wuhan is actually made up of three cities: Wuchang on the south bank of the Yangtze, the former treaty port of Hankou to the north-west and Hanyang on the south-east side.

Wuchang is not only famous for the Wuchang Uprising, which triggered the Revolution of 1911 led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen, but also for the East Lake scenic area. Hankou has relics of five foreign concession areas, geographically similar to Shanghai's Bund, around the riverside Zhongshan Lu, an area that has served as a major commercial hub for central China since the 1920s.

## Morning scenic tour: East Lake scenic area – Hubei Provincial Museum – Wuhan University

The **East Lake** is five times larger than Hangzhou's West Lake, and offers boating, yachting, swimming and other water sports.

Mo Shan, surrounded by the lake on three sides, is a memorial site for Qu Yuan, the patriotic poet of the Warring States Period (403-221 BC) who drowned himself in a tributary of the Yangtze, and boasts the largest botanical gardens in central China. With Wuhan's sunny and humid climate, a string of flower festivals follow one after another, all year round. Notable are the plum festival in winter and spring, and the lotus and laurel festival in summer and autumn.

**Hubei Provincial Museum** displays treasures unique to the 2,400-year-old Chu Culture, such as Zenghouyi chimes and bells, the sword of Gou Jian (king of Yue), and the spear of Fu Chai (king of Wu). Performance of Chu-style dance and music are given regularly.

**Hours:** 8 to 12, 2 to 5, closed Mondays

**Wuhan University** is often described as one of the most beautiful colleges in China. Leaving museum, tourists can go back to Luojia Mountain for a campus trip. With a history of 111 years, it features an architectural heritage of the Qing Dynasty.

**Afternoon historic spots:**  
**Yellow Crane Tower – Guqin Terrace – Guiyuan Buddhist Temple**  
**Huanghe Lou (Yellow**

**Crane Tower**), stands on top of She Shan (Snake Hill), Wuchang, on the south bank of the Yangtze, near the No. 1 Bridge. It was first built during the Three Kingdoms period (220-280) and has attracted a steady stream of poets and artists over the centuries, many of whom were inspired to compose calligraphy works and paintings, some of which are still kept in the tower.

Destroyed by fire three times in its 1,700-year history, today's Yellow Crane Tower was reconstructed in 1981. Standing 90 meters above the river, it provides a spectacular panorama of the Yangtze.



Guqin Terrace

Photo by Wu Hui

On the opposite bank from Yellow Crane Tower in Hanyang, is **Guqin Terrace**, at the western foot of Gui Shan (Tortoise Hill). It was originally built in the Song Dynasty (960 - 1279) as a symbol of the friendship between Yu Boya and Zhong Ziqi, who lived in the Spring and Autumn Period (770-475 BC). Yu Boya was a master of the *guqin* (an ancient musical instrument similar to the zither). A platform by the waterside is said to be where he played.

Situated on Cuiwei Jie, Hanyang, the **Guiyuan Buddhist Temple** was built in 1658, during the Qing Dynasty. The name of the



Yellow Crane Tower

Photo by Wang Sunling



East Lake Park

Photo by Li Shengzhong

temple Guiyuan means “returning to the origin of purity.” In the Arhat Hall are five hundred statues of Buddha's disciples, sitting, standing or reclining, in anger, sadness or delight. It is said that visitors can predict their fortune according to the disciple whose order is the same as the visitor's age.

## Evening riverside tour for food and shopping:

Bus No. 45 connects Hanyang and Hankou. Jiangnan District, Hankou, near the riverside, is Wuhan's central commercial district, and the site of one of three feature street-markets: **Hanzheng Jie for small commodities**

Hanzheng Jie was once the main street of ancient Hankou, and an astonishing variety of small commodities are traded here and in the three adjoining streets.

*Mamu* in Wuhan dialect originally referred to the topsy-

turvy feeling of riding on a simple motor-powered tricycle with engine, and later it came to refer to these tricycles themselves. Now, *mamu* are the most common street vehicles in Wuhan.

## Jiangnan Lu pedestrian street – Wuhan's Bund

The pedestrian street runs from Jiangnan No. 4 road to the riverside, and is known as the “architecture museum of the 20th Century.” Like the Bund in Shanghai, 12 buildings along the street are listed as historic architectural relics, mostly dating from the Qing Dynasty, including the Jiangnan Customs building and former sites of the Yokohama Bank, Taiwan Bank, Citibank, Swires Bank, HSBC, in Roman, Byzantine and Renaissance architectural styles.

## Jiqing Lu for snacks

Jiqing Lu is renowned for its eateries and snack stalls. *Baozi* (steamed stuffed buns) at Sijimei, dry noodles with

sesame paste at Cailinji, sticky rice fried in egg rolls at Laotongcheng and chicken soup at Xiaotaoyuan are all worth trying.

Folk artists perform music at the request of the customers. Usually five yuan is enough for one piece.

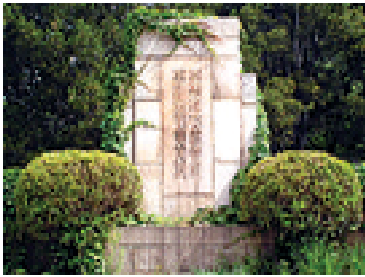
## Getting there:

By train: It is a 12 hour trip from Beijing to Wuhan. There are two main railway stations: Wuchang Station and Hankou Station. Most trains stop at both. Hard sleeper costs around 260 yuan.

By air: Wuhan's Tianhe Airport is a 20-minute bus trip from Hankou Railway Station, and 40 minutes from Wuchang Railway Station. Airfares range from 650 to 1,080 yuan.

## Accommodation:

The Xuangong Hotel, established in 1928, is the oldest classical European-style hotel in town.



Tomb of Liang Qichao

Photo by Chen Yu

## Hidden Tombs at Xiangshan

By Chen Jie / Sheng Mingming

Xiangshan, or the Fragrant Hills, are as sweet smelling as the name suggests. Lying just beyond the Summer Palace, to the north-west of the city, they offer a great view of Beijing, on a clear day. They are also the final resting place of many well known historical figures.

From the top of the highest peak – Laohutou Shan, the red temples of nearby Badachu Park are clearly visible. A path leading northwards descends to a relatively wide road and to a small tea pergola simply built with several thick stakes.

From here a laneway leads to Xiangshan reservoir in the north. Past the spillway and the disused forestry center and the white Guajia Tower, one can find the first traces of some of the rarely visited tombs half hidden in the undergrowth.

The first tomb is that of Liu Bannong, one of the precursors of the New Culture Movement during the May Fourth Period in the 1920s. As a renowned writer, linguist and educationalist, he wrote many progressive treatises for *New Youth* magazine in 1917.

Nearby is the resting place of Liu Tianhua, former president of the Music Academy of Peking University. Liu Tianhua was a famous composer, *erhu* and *pipa* player and music teacher. Small and simple, the tomb has only an epitaph on the tombstone.

Shaded by thick cane, a lane leads northeast to Yuhuang Ding (Heavenly Emperor Peak), where the Tranquility and Felicity Temple lies. Built in 1621 during the Ming Dynasty, the temple consists of three courtyards. Two clear springs flow from under a huge stone near the temple.

Further down the hill is the tomb of Mei Lanfang, the world-renowned Peking Opera master. A long path leads to the tombstone, on which the characters Mei Lanfang, 1894-1961 are engraved. Nearby are the tombs of several of Mei Lanfang's students, such as Ma Lianliang, Yan Shanpeng and Zhou Hetong.

Continuing north-east into the Botanical Gardens, past Wofu Temple, one comes to a courtyard with high walls where the tomb of the warlord Sun Chuanfang lies. To the east, is the large tomb of General Zhang Shang, a senior official during the period of the northern warlords early last century.

In the northeast corner of the Botanical Gardens lies the family graveyard of Liang Qichao, the leading reformer at the end of 19th century who launched a movement for bourgeois political reform, known as the Reform Movement of 1898. There is no epitaph on the tombstone, in accordance with the wishes of Liang Qichao. The graveyard was designed by Liang Sicheng.

There are all together 72 tombs of famous figures at Xiangshan, more than can possibly be visited in just one outing, but a day of exploring can be both rewarding and fun.



Xiangshan Reservoir

Photo by Chen Jie